

# THE TIMES

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McMaster: suicide note

## Blair orders investigation into Labour MP's death

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has ordered an investigation into the death last week of a Labour MP who left a suicide note which blamed two senior party colleagues for a whispering campaign which could have contributed to his death.

A copy of the two-page letter, which was written by Gordon McMaster whose body was found

slumped behind the wheel of his car in the garage of his home, has been passed to Nick Brown, the Labour chief whip.

It names Tommy Graham the Labour MP for Renfrew West and Inverclyde and Don Dixon, a former Labour Party deputy whip, who was recently elevated to the House of Lords.

As the party's difficulties deepened over the apparent suicide, the first by an MP for eight years, a

Labour MP revealed last night that the whips had been warned that Mr McMaster was having serious personal difficulties. Roger Stott, the MP for Wigan, said: "If he had been shown the attention he deserved he might still be here today."

Mr McMaster, who was MP for Paisley South, had been suffering depression for some time and had been receiving treatment for ME, known as chronic fatigue syndrome.

But *The Times* disclosed last week

that the 37-year-old bachelor had been the subject of rumours in the weeks before his death alleging he was a homosexual suffering from HIV which he denied. He had received poison pen letters.

The existence of the suicide note, which confirms that he suspected senior colleagues were behind the campaign, will dismay the Labour Party leadership. He wrote in the note that he hoped its contents would be published.

It was addressed to the Prime Minister, his parents, and Irene Adams, a fellow Paisley Labour MP, and close friend. It was littered with uncharacteristic spelling errors which suggested that he wrote it while his mind was disturbed. He had also been drinking heavily. Dozens of empty whisky bottles were found in his home.

Both Lord Dixon and Mr Graham, who is abroad on holiday, have denied any involvement in the

spreading of malicious rumours. "I will be flabbergasted if I have been named in the note. Gordon was a good colleague," Lord Dixon was reported as saying yesterday.

Mr Graham, who was challenged by *The Times* about his alleged involvement last week, also denied it.

"I am devastated by Gordon's death. He is only a young man. I am a family man with a boy of 27 and a boy of 19. I liked Gordon and all my

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Labour grants Britannia a costly reprieve

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TAXPAYERS' money will be required to keep the Royal Yacht *Britannia* afloat despite a pledge by ministers yesterday to finance a £50 million refit entirely from the private sector.

Justifying the move, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, said on GMTV's *Sunday* programme yesterday: "If you're going to have a Royal Family, let them have proper modes of transport, let's have a Royal Yacht that reflects well on the country, that is properly used by the Royal Family, that is good for projecting Britain round the world, but let's do it by finding other means of financing it."

Millions of pounds each year will have to come from the public purse to pay the annual running costs of the 43-year-old vessel, which are estimated at £10 to £12 million a year. Public money may also be required to underwrite the cost of the refit.

The Treasury confirmed



Britannia: £50m refit for 43-year-old vessel

yesterday that proposals are being developed to finance the £50 million refit, three times the cost of the original scheme proposed by the last Tory government, from the private sector.

The private sector investment would be repaid from fees paid each time the yacht was used by members of the Royal Family, including the Queen, government departments and British companies. Ministers are determined to give *Britannia* a more active role and to use her as a showcase for British industry and exports.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General who is responsible for public-private finance partnerships, has presented estimates to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who is enthusiastic. The refit would extend the life of the vessel for a further 30 years.

In 1994 the Tory Government scrapped plans for a £17.5 million refit because it was regarded as too expensive. It would have extended the life of the vessel by five years. In January the Tories proposed instead a £60 million replacement paid for by the taxpayer.

*Britannia* starts a tour round the British Isles this week on what had been expected to be her last voyage before decommissioning in Portsmouth in December. But the announcement of the Treasury initiative seems certain to

save her from the scrapheap. A senior Whitehall source said that some of the running costs would be met from the royal travel budget, which comes directly from the taxpayer. "There may be some cost to the taxpayer in the running costs. But the refit should result in a reduction in the running costs."

Mr Mandelson did not rule out the possibility that public money would be required to underwrite the deal. But he said he hoped that no costs would fall on the taxpayer.

"Our aim is to devise an arrangement where the taxpayer will not have to pick up the tab, because there are so many other competing demands for public expenditure," he said.

The health service, our schools, the fight against crime, helping the young and long-term unemployed... those are the priorities for our Government. We don't want to have to pick up the tab.

"That's why we have since we came into office been exploring alternative ways of saving *Britannia* or finding some alternative."

The private sector investment would be repaid from fees paid each time the yacht was used by members of the Royal Family, including the Queen, government departments and British companies. Ministers are determined to give *Britannia* a more active role and to use her as a showcase for British industry and exports.

A Treasury spokesman said that the details had not been resolved and they hoped to be able to offset some of the running costs through the fees.

Lord Ashbourne, a Tory peer and chairman of the all-party Royal Yacht Parliamentary Group, who has had discussions with Buckingham Palace about a replacement, said: "I am glad the Government is seriously considering the subject but £50 million is a tremendous amount of money for a refit for only a 30-year extension. I still believe that the best option is a new vessel built at the taxpayers' expense."

"But if it comes to it, and it has to be private finance, it is infinitely preferable than no yacht at all. It is a flagship for Britain which is a symbol of our national excellence."

Reserve edition, page 5

Leading article, page 19



The Queen Mother, who is 97 today, was greeted by a crowd of 1,000 singing *Happy Birthday*, as she left Sandringham church yesterday

### Virgin takes on the big banks

Richard Branson's Virgin Group is taking on the might of the high street banks by launching a 24-hour telephone banking operation. The Virgin bank will compete with First Direct and NatWest, Barclays, Midland and Lloyds TSB. It will target well-paid young professionals "disillusioned with their banks" ... Page 44

### Survivor tells of avalanche

Stuart Driver, an Australian ski instructor, told how his wife drowned when she was swept from his grasp after they were buried in their bed by an avalanche. He thanked rescuers — one of whom stayed by him in the rubble for 12 hours in a rescue shaft ... Page 10

### United triumph

Manchester United beat Chelsea 4-2 on penalties to win the Charity Shield after the traditional opening game of the season ended in a 1-1 draw. The goalscorers were Mark Hughes and Ronny Johnsen ... Pages 23, 27

### Burroughs, the first hippy, dies at 83

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE writer William Burroughs, widely acknowledged as the world's first hippy, has died aged 83.

Burroughs, whose life was a mélange of self-abuse and self-satisfaction, founded the "beat" movement with the novelist Jack Kerouac and the poet Allen Ginsberg.

A junkie, homosexual and brilliant writer, Burroughs was also famous for shooting his partner in the head in a drug-addled attempt to recreate the apple episode from *William Tell*. She had aanced a glass on her head at a party in Mexico City, but Burroughs' aim let him down. Her death was to be the most famous case of wife-killing than OJ Simpson.

Burroughs' most famous work, *Naked Lunch*, is a roller-coaster ride through the psyche of a drug addict and a deviant world of junkies, perverts and hucksters. The book was the subject of numerous censorship trials. Although written in 1959, it did not go on sale in America until 1962.

Although many found it

### Hollioake brothers get England call-up

BY SIMON WILDE

ENGLAND'S hard-pressed cricket selectors have turned to a teenager who was born in Melbourne in their search for someone to help them to beat Australia in the fifth Test starting in Nottingham on Thursday. England must win to keep alive their chances of winning the Ashes.

Ben Hollisake, the Surrey all-rounder, who came to Britain with his family when he was six, is one of three changes England have made to their team. Another is Ben's older brother, Adam, who is also their county captain. Neither has previously played Test cricket, but both had starring roles in one-day matches against Australia in May. Ben striking a sparkling half century to help win the game at Lord's. He was on his way to Southampton to practise with the England under-19 team when he received the call from David Graveney, chairman of selectors, telling him of his call-up. He will play for the junior side against Zimbabwe today before driving to Trent Bridge to

join his new, more illustrious team mates.

Until now Ben has been considered too young for Test cricket, but England's position is so desperate — they must win this as well as the last Test to regain the Ashes — that caution has been thrown to the wind. Not until November, Ben would be the youngest England Test player since Brian Close 48 years ago.

Brothers in arms, page 29



Brothers in arms, page 29

The Law according to Turow



THE LAW OF  
OUR FATHERS



# France with tears as drivers hit 75-mile jam

Harvey Elliott and Susan Bell report on a weekend of chaos for British motorists heading for the sun

THOUSANDS of British holiday-makers were caught in traffic jams up to 75 miles long at the weekend as roads throughout much of France ground to a halt under the weight of seven million cars and caravans. The AA said that conditions in the main bottleneck areas of central France were "absolute hell".

"It seemed that this weekend everyone wanted to drive in France," an AA spokeswoman said. "The French themselves were either heading on holiday or returning home, while millions of foreign visitors poured in by road." Holiday-makers were attracted by the apparent low cost of living in France in the wake of the

collapse of the franc against most European currencies, especially the pound. With a pound sterling now worth more than ten francs, tour operators have seen bookings soar and an unprecedented number of independent travellers have crowded on to every ferry route and Channel tunnel service.

France is enjoying a record year for tourists, and favourable exchange rates are expected to increase the number of British tourists by 20 per cent this year. More than 60 million foreign tourists are expected to visit France this year, confirming the

country's position as the most popular holiday destination in the world and maintaining its lead over the United States, which according to the World Tourism Organisation last year received 45 million foreign visitors followed by Spain with 44.4 million.

Despite recent figures declaring Paris to be the most expensive city in the world it remains the most popular destination for visitors, followed by Provence, the Alps and the Côte d'Azur. In the first six months of the year, the number of foreign tourists had increased by 13 per cent compared with last

year. The British led the way with a 17 per cent increase. Last year tourists injected 14 billion into the French economy.

Foreigners' views of the French tend to be jaundiced, even when not stuck in traffic. A survey by the French tourist board found that the French were variously described as "aggressive, arrogant, chauvinistic, smooth talkers, badly organised, talkative, distant, quarrelsome, impulsive, impertinent, pretentious, uncommunicative and not very nice".

It was left to *Le Figaro* to draw

the sad conclusion that tourists often "prefer France to the French".

The big rush in France always comes at the beginning of August with every possible space taken on cross channel ferries and roads from Germany, Italy and Spain packed with cars seeking the rural calm associated with inland France.

At the same time the French tend either to take much of July or the whole of August as holiday. They exchange their holiday cottages and gites on the first weekend of August in a frantic rush to the roads known as "the cross-

over". So millions of local and foreign cars all meet over the last 48 hours with hundreds of breakdowns and stranded passengers littering the country's arteries.

"We normally would offer accommodation in a nearby hotel for those whose car could not be repaired quickly or provide a rental car to get them on their way," the AA said. "But this weekend there were hundreds of broken down vehicles."

"Our local people had to search further and further away from the scene of the break-down to find any rooms at all or any cars for

rent but the Germans and other European visitors were having similar problems and had snapped them all up. For many I am afraid it will be Monday before they can get on their way again."

Despite the opening of 4,700 miles of modern autoroutes throughout the country jams built up on Saturday and cars were still crawling only slowly by last night.

"Hundreds of British Airways passengers have been left without their bags after problems in the baggage system at Heathrow on one of the busiest weekends of the year. The airline apologised yesterday and said that passengers should have their luggage back by tomorrow night."

## President Dana may top the bill in poll comeback

Irish voters face a line-up with all kinds of everything in election for head of state. Audrey Magee reports

THE woman who found fame by winning the Eurovision Song Contest for Ireland is considering a higher calling, by entering the political competition to be Ireland's president.

Dana has been approached by a group of Roman Catholic MPs who are against abortion and divorce. They want a well-known Catholic figurehead to fight against the spread of secularism. The current president, Mary Robinson, stands down in September to become UN Commissioner for Human Rights.

Dana — real name Rosemary Brown — has had no involvement in Irish political life and has spent the last six years in the American bible belt in Alabama. She said that she was flattered by the invitation: "I'm very interested and discussing it with my family."

The 44-year-old singer from a Roman Catholic background in Londoner won the Song Contest in 1970 with *All Kinds of Everything*. A mother of four, she is regarded with great affection, but it was not until moving to the US that she publicly stood out against abortion. She has sung at Pro-Life rallies and presents a chat show on a Catholic cable channel called Mother Angelica.

She tours gospel halls and became hugely popular following the release of her album of the rosary, a Roman Catholic prayer of devotion. She has sung for the Pope.



Mary Robinson:  
UN Commissioner

three times and will entertain him again in France later this month.

To stand for election in October, she needs the backing of 20 MPs or four local authorities. This is likely to prove difficult if the main parties nominate their own candidates and use the party whip to ensure members back the same candidate.

However, she may secure support from many of the 165 members of parliament who are trenchantly anti-abortion and dismayed at the unwillingness of the main parties to ban abortion in Ireland.

At present, abortion is permissible if the life of the

mother is in danger. Dozens more MPs are upset at the introduction of divorce, legalised following a referendum majority of less than one per cent last year.

Gerry O'Mahony, of the Christian Community Centre in Dublin, said a prayer crusade will begin later this month to try to have Dana elected.

He said: "She will not be a political candidate, and will reflect her great interest in the spiritual and moral welfare of youth, in keeping with the great Christian principles for the common good."

Dana is one of many names being considered by politicians and the public as a possible successor to Mrs Robinson, who has spent her tenure trying to generate secularism and tolerance in Ireland.

John Hume, the SDLP leader, has been suggested as an agreed candidate between all the parties. Albert Reynolds, the former prime minister, is seeking the nomination of his Fianna Fail party.

Fine Gael, the main opposition party, is currently trying to decide between MEP Mary Banotti and former Westford MP, Avril Doyle, while Labour is considering supporting the former arts minister, Michael D. Higgins.

Senator David Norris, an outspoken gay rights activist, is also talking of as a possible candidate for Aras an Uachtarain, the presidential



Dana in her heyday. She said: "I am interested and discussing it with my family"

## Popeye phobia was no laughing matter

By IAN MURRAY



Popeye frightened a three-year-old girl

inhaler to treat her bronchitis and sent to a psychiatrist, who gave her behavioural therapy. She recovered so rapidly that within two months she was able to watch Popeye cartoons quite happily. "She is ten years old now and has never had a recurrence of the problem," Dr Mucklow said.

His report in the current edition of the *International Journal of Clinical Practice* says: "Phobias are unfounded or exaggerated fears, which may be recognised by the victim, who is nevertheless powerless to overcome them. This can lead to severe physical and intellectual impairment."

"In children they are a frequent reaction to stress and anxiety, and may be accompanied by abdominal pain and vomiting. By far the commonest is school phobia in which the child shows great anxiety about leaving home for school, parents and refuses to go."

The slippers sported a picture of Popeye, the cartoon hero. Perhaps, therefore, she was allergic to spinach, his favourite food. That theory was quickly disproved. The problem was discovered to be Popeye himself. "Even the mention of his name provoked coughing," Dr Mucklow said yesterday.

The girl had seen a cartoon of Popeye at a friend's house and had become frightened of him. Once Popeye phobia was diagnosed, treatment became easy. She was given an

## Opera House is arts tragedy, says RSC chief

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE head of the Royal Shakespeare Company yesterday accused the Royal Opera House of damaging the prospects of the arts getting money from the National Lottery.

Adrian Noble, the RSC's artistic director, who wants the lottery to contribute to a possible £20 million redevelopment of the company's 1,500-seat theatre in Stratford upon Avon, lambasted the Covent Garden management.

"The antics of the Opera House have set back the cause of arts and the lottery in this country years," Mr Noble told *GM's Sunday Programme*. "It has meant that most other bona fide projects are being scrutinised in an unnecessary way. It means that the man on the Clapham omnibus is now hostile towards the arts and particularly to lottery funding for buildings for the arts."

The Opera House has been given £8 million from the National Lottery for redevelopment at Covent Garden. It closed last month and will reopen in 1999.

Mr Noble has announced a bid for lottery money to pay for a £2 million feasibility study leading to the renovation of the RSC's 1930s theatre. He has said it would be a check not to support the RSC's request when so many London projects have received money.

Mr Noble said yesterday that the Opera House would have bolstered its public image and deflected much criticism by using the redevelopment period to bring opera to the masses through

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# Latest victim of CJD lived near 'mad cow' farm

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A MOTHER of four has become the twenty-first victim of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which scientists have linked with eating beef.

Sue Carey, 50, used to live in Mersham, Kent, near where the first "mad cow" was identified on a farm in High Halden in 1985, and where a cluster of people have since died from CJD. Between 1985 and 1987, Mrs Carey and her husband, Henry, 43, a labourer and tractor driver, lived in a tied cottage on an estate owned by the film producer Lord Brabourne, which was home to a dairy herd and beef cattle. "Whether it was a coincidence or not you just don't know," Mr Carey said. "We ate plenty of beef and Sue would eat a ham-

burger as a treat when she went into town. In those days we didn't know anything about BSE because no one had heard of it."

An adjourned inquest into her death in March is expected to reopen next month. The National CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh has just confirmed that she was suffering from the new strain of the incurable brain disease.

Last year a woman and a man, both 29, from Kent died of the new variant. A 36-year-old man with suspected CJD is still alive. A 51-year-old woman from Ashford died in 1989 and her twin sister last year, both of old-type CJD, probably inherited.

Some medical observers have criticised Canterbury

Mills rendering plant for spreading effluent, including boiled cattle remains, on land in Godmersham, Kent. Fears that this might pollute the water supply were dismissed by other experts.

In 1995, while the Carey family was living on a farm in Esher, Surrey, Mrs Carey began complaining of shortness of breath, at first diagnosed as asthma. Suspecting her condition was aggravated by fumes from Heathrow, the Careys moved last autumn to Greserton in Lincolnshire.

"At first she became deeply depressed, which was so totally unlike her, and I thought that she was having a nervous breakdown," Mr Carey said. "She would go to collect the kids from the school bus, but instead of getting there at 3.30 she went at midday. The housework didn't get done and she'd sit for hours on the sofa just doing nothing. It just wasn't like Sue. She believed she had done it all."

Mrs Carey died on March 8, her eldest daughter Rebecca's 15th birthday. "We are trying to get normality back into our lives but we have nothing and there is no money," Mr Carey said. He has given up work so he can look after Rebecca, Tracey, 13, Amanda, 11, and Christopher, 7. The family eats little meat, only pork. "You would never catch me eating beef again," Mr Carey said.

FOR years it languished as a doortop in a butcher's shop. Now this bronze figure of a beloved pet has revisited memories of a Victorian heiress who received a peacock for the care she lavished on human beings and animals alike.

The crop-eared terrier, called Fan, belonged to Baroness Burdett-Coutts (1814-1906), who inherited her grandfather's banking fortune in 1837. She was a renowned socialite whose friends and admirers included Charles Dickens, Prince Louis Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington.

Angela Burdett-Coutts was also a luminary in the RSPCA, and commissioned the Edinburgh sculpture of



The bronze figure of "Our Little Fan", a favourite terrier, was commissioned by Baroness Burdett-Coutts in 1872.

## Terrier opens door on the past

John Vincent on an auction lot that recalls an heiress rich with kindness

Greyfriars Bobby, the faithful dog who refused to leave his master's grave. The memorial, on Candlemaker Row, near Greyfriars Kirk, is a favourite of tourists.

Two years earlier she commissioned the bronze of "Our Little Fan". The 28cm by 58.5cm (11in by 23in) piece goes on show today at Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, and is expected to fetch up to £5,000 at a Sotheby's auction there on August 26.

Fan was made by George Carter, the son of a south London cobbler who became an important designer for the renowned jewellers and silversmiths Hunt and Roskell.

The bronze was exhibited at the Royal Academy but its whereabouts later were unclear until it appeared as a doortop at Wrights butcher's shop in York. In the 1950s it was given to the grandmother of the present unnamed owner as a token of



Burdett-Coutts: fortune from eponymous bank

appreciation for her hard work in the shop.

The good works of Baroness Burdett-Coutts, who became a peer in 1871, included a shelter for fallen women, homes for the poor and endowments for churches.

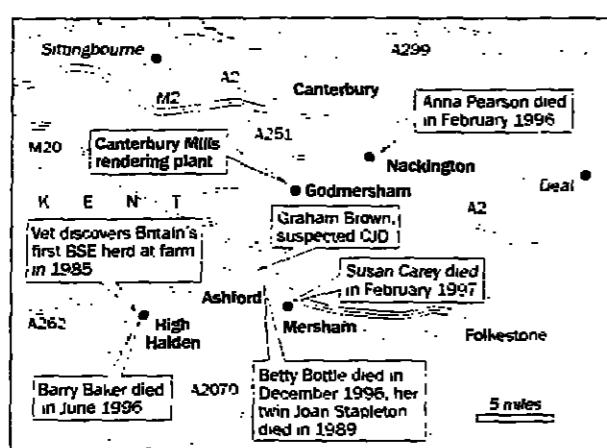
Her London residence at 1 Stratton Street became a focal point for political, literary, scientific and artistic luminaries. Charles Dickens, a close friend, described her as "a most excellent creature".

The baroness, who did not

marry until 1881, was renowned for saying: "Life is better in man or beast is sacred."

Diana Keith Neal, head of Sotheby's 19th and 20th century sculpture department, said: "The characterful dog reveals a fascinating story of Victorian patronage."

Victorian Britain, page 7



## Pop singers and sergeant majors share risks over sore throats

THE former Beatle George Harrison, who had recently complained of throat pain, was admitted to hospital last week for routine investigations. These included a laryngoscopy so that the surgeon could look at his laryngeal cords: swollen glands in his neck were removed at the same time for microscopic examination.

Any patient who has to use his or her voice to earn a living, whether on the stage,

parade ground or political platform, has an increased risk of developing cancer of the larynx, a late result of the chronic inflammation that can follow overuse. A tumour in the larynx frequently spreads to the lymph glands in the neck and it is therefore not surprising that the surgeon needed to exclude this possibility. It is reported that the pathologists did not find any cancer in Harrison's glands. Singers and sergeant ma-

jors are not the only people at risk from cancer of the larynx: so are those who both smoke and drink — it is the combination that is particularly disastrous. In most cases of cancer of the larynx, unexplained hoarseness is the first symptom. Anyone who is hoarse for more than two or three weeks, or whose voice has started to tire unusually easily, should have a laryngoscopy to determine the cause. There is usually a simple explanation for the swelling of glands in the neck, but when the cause is a malignancy it may be a secondary tumour that has spread from other areas.

A possible but mundane explanation for Harrison's re-

current sore throat, and those of many other people, has recently been investigated. Many people are suffering from nothing worse than oesophageal reflux as a result of eating too late at night, and as they grow older of putting on too much weight around their middle. About 25 per cent of people who have oesophageal reflux, and whose stomach contents flow back into the bottom of their gullet when they lie down, are unaware of

it. But the acid from the stomach not only inflames the lining of the oesophagus, but the fumes from it rise up into the larynx and throat.

Resulting inflammation from the acidic fumes makes them more likely to suffer sore throats in the morning and recurrent upper respiratory tract infections. The answer to the problem is to eat early, to lose weight and to sleep with the head end of the bed propped up.

## Students graduate in the art of smoking

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

STUDENTS and recent graduates are bucking the trend for the highly educated to give up smoking. A new survey shows that more than a fifth continue to smoke, although nearly all are aware that cigarettes can damage their health.

There are wide differences between subject areas: arts students are twice as likely as social science students to be smokers. Arts graduates are among the heaviest smokers in the land, as 31 per cent smoke, compared with a national average of 28 per cent of men and 25 per cent of women.

When graduates who smoke find work, they are much less likely than other smokers to want to give up their habit. The survey of 961 recent graduates and final-year undergraduates found that 48 per cent had smoked regularly at some time, and 21 per cent continued to smoke. When graduates enter the workforce the proportion who smoke actually rises to 23 per cent.

Tom Lovell, manager of Reed Graduates, which conducted the survey, said: "Starting a new job can be stressful, and if some of your new fellow employees are smokers, group cigarette breaks can seem an all-too-easy way of gaining acceptance."

Despite this, 96 per cent were well aware that smoking affects health. High rates of smoking are usually linked with low social class, low achievement and low aspiration. Only 15 per cent of people in the highest social class are regular smokers, compared with 36 per cent in the lowest social class, according to the Health Education Authority.

Graduates are aware how anti-social smoking is considered. Only 1 per cent want to work in an office where people can smoke at their desks, and 42 per cent feel that an employer would recruit a non-smoker instead of a smoker, all other things being equal. □ Style and youth magazines such as *The Face*, *Loaded* and *Time Out* are criticised by the Health Education Authority today, for using pictures of models and stars with "positive images of smoking".

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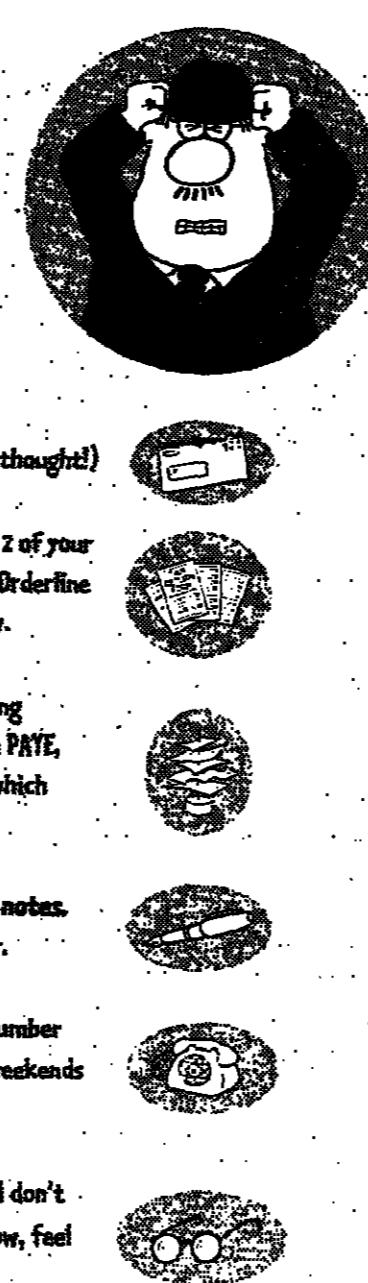
2. Check you've got all the pages you need by filling in page 2 of your tax return. If you find you need any extra pages, just call our Orderline on 0645 000404\*. It's open between 8am and 10pm every day.

3. Get all your tax records to hand, such as bank and building society statements and share dividend vouchers. If you're on PAYE, you'll need your P60 or P45 Part 1A. You may also get a P11D (which covers work-related benefits) from your employer.

4. Fill in the form by following the step-by-step guidance notes. Make sure you understand them before putting pen to paper.

5. If you need help, contact your tax office - the phone number is at the top of your tax return. Or, in the evenings and at weekends call the Self Assessment Helpline on 0645 000444\*.

6. Check that you've filled in everything you need to - and don't forget to sign the completed form before sending it off. Now, feel free to get stuck into something else.



Web address: [www.open.gov.uk/inrev/sa/](http://www.open.gov.uk/inrev/sa/)

\*All calls are charged at local rates.

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# Major calls for end to class system dividing the Forces

An army officer has published a pamphlet attacking what he calls blatant social selection, Michael Evans reports

AN ARMY officer is proposing scrapping the class system under which, he says, the Armed Forces are run largely by public schoolboys with the other ranks recruited from state schools.

In a broadside at the "blatant social selection system", operated by the Army in particular, Major Eric Joyce, who is a staff officer in the Adjutant General's Corps based at Upavon in Wiltshire, says it is time military leaders were groomed from the East End of London as well as the playing fields of Eton.

Major Joyce, 39, feels so strongly about the need to remove the "Victorian-style" social divide in the Army's hierarchy that he has written a pamphlet, published today by the left-wing Fabian Society.

He admitted yesterday that he did not seek the permission of his commanding officer. "It will be a bit of a bombshell, but you can't get radical ideas like this into the public domain if you go through the chain of command."

In his article, Major Joyce says the army hierarchy is divided into three classes: the Posh, an exclusively white, male, privately educated elite "which runs the institution and wholly dominates its culture"; the Professionals, the middle classes who provide



General Macdonald: he joined as a private

the technical expertise and middle management; and the Plebs, the working classes who account for the great "use-and-discard" rank and file.

However, a former member of the Army Board said Major Joyce was out of date and denied there was a class system in the Army. The general, who asked not to be named, said: "A lot of the young men and women going through Sandhurst today are from state schools."

He added: "Officers are different from soldiers, but the relationship between them is extremely good and friendly."

Civilian employers, he says, have learnt to value the talent and ability of their employees irrespective of their social background, but the Armed Services have chosen "to fight such institutional progress at every turn."

"At present, possibly all of our most senior 50 or so officers (generals) were privately educated, as were the overwhelming majority of the upper-middle ranks (colonels and brigadiers). On the other side of this great social divide, those who serve in the Army as soldiers are almost universally from the state education sector."

The general "Victorian principle", he says, is that officers are leaders "and, as such, a breed apart". But this system wastes the enormous com-

mand potential of many who joined as soldiers.

Someone who bucked the trend in Victorian times was General Sir Hector Macdonald, who served in Kitchener's Army, rising through the ranks from private to general.

Major Joyce joined the Army as a private in 1978, but then left to go to university. He rejoined on a commission after getting his degree. He says: "One of the great strengths of our organisation is that many bright potential leaders join us with few academic qualifications, yet immediately thrive in a military environment, often unlocking the door to enormous latent potential. A great many of these people are perfectly capable of commanding their regiment, or in some cases even becoming generals."

He urges his superiors to

consider the option of reducing direct officer entry and making movement between the non-commissioned and commissioned ranks "much more flexible". Officer and soldier recruiting should be merged into a "fully unified structure" and good NCOs should be promoted to officer rank after one tour of being a sergeant.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said the views expressed by Major Joyce were his personal ones and not those of the Ministry of Defence. "The matter is being investigated."

□ *Arms and the Man — Renewing the Armed Services* (Fabian Society discussion paper, £10)

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# Historic diet check shows cannibalism is in our bones

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

HUMAN beings have been cannibals throughout most of their history, according to archaeological evidence.

From the first human beings in Europe, who ate each other 800,000 years ago, to the natives of south-western America in the years up to 1700, cannibalism appears to have been a common feature of societies.

Or so claims Dr Christy Turner, of Arizona State University, who has spent 30 years studying the evidence, including what another scientist calls "pot polish" on human bones — caused by their being stirred in a cooking pot.

Dr Turner says he is convinced that cannibalism was practised intensively for almost four centuries

in the region where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah meet.

"The evidence is so strong, he told *Science*, "I would bet a year of my salary on it".

His belief is strengthened

by evidence from Atapuerca, in northern Spain, where archaeologists announced in May that they had found a new human ancestor.

Bones of *Homo antecessor*

were found broken up and scored with cuts, made when the flesh was cut away.

Although other interpretations are possible, the

marks are similar to those

found on animal bones on

the same site.

This pattern, says Dr Peter Andrews, of the Natural History Museum in London, is "pretty strong evidence for cannibalism".

Similar evidence comes from Near-

eastern caves in Europe dating from 150,000 to 45,000 years ago.

Remains at Vindija in

Croatia have recently been

re-examined by Dr Tim White of the University of California at Berkeley, who

found that they showed a

similar pattern of breakage,

cut marks and disarticulation

to those of American

sites he investigated.

David DeGusta, a gradu-

ate student working with him, applied the same tech-

niques to human bones in

Fiji, dating from the past

century.

Not every archaeologist

believes the evidence is con-

vincing, but even Dr Arens

is half-persuaded. He said:

"I think the procedures are

sounder, and there is more

evidence than before."

□ *Compliments to the chef? It was the chef!*

□ *Starving are the crazies, in the past, that wasn't necessarily the group view.*

Our ancestors may have had their own reasons, he says: religion, medicine, to terrify subject peoples, or to limit their neighbours' children.

□ *Arms and the Man — Renewing the Armed Services* (Fabian Society discussion paper, £10)

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# The reign that changed the world

Today, in this centenary year of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, Alan Hamilton begins a series celebrating an era unmatched in its dynamism

QUEEN VICTORIA reigned far too long for historical convenience. The world she left on her death in 1901, after 64 years on the throne, was a vastly different place to that she inherited on her accession as an 18-year-old in the distant year of 1837.

We talk glibly of the Victorian age as though it were a single entity, and we imagine it as an endless summer afternoon of prosperity, stability and energy. In truth there were at least three Victorian ages: an age of revolution, an age of wealth, and an age of empire.

Victoria came to the throne only five years after the passage of the first Reform Bill, the break in the stranglehold of political power by the aristocracy. Her early years saw the repeal of the Corn Laws making way for unbridled free trade, and the publication of the Communist Mani-

festo. Her second age was ushered in by the overpowering Germanic energy and earnestness of Prince Albert, who created the Great Exhibition of 1851 and raised the curtain on a long period of burgeoning industry, invention and wealth. As that boom was bursting, Disraeli created his Queen Empress of India, signalling the third age in which a quarter of the map of the world became coloured red.

During Victoria's reign, the population almost exactly doubled to 37 million. Britain, strong and confident, became the world's greatest industrial power. Yet by the end of the century the country had lost that dominance to a United States hugely

revitalised after its Civil War, and to an emergent Germany made muscular by unification. In this long and immensely varied reign, however, there are still common strands. Lord Briggs, the historian Asa Briggs, who is our most eminent living chronicler of the period, says: "Over the

whole reign there is a unity which lies in the Victorians' recognition of the importance of change. One of the favourite phrases of the time was 'age of transition'. There was a great consciousness of the times they were living in. They loved to compare their times with others times, and on the whole they felt they were living in a wonderful century because there was

so much new, from the railway engine to the safety match."

A country which in the early years of the reign had moved towards the zenith of its industrial and political power, ended the century in a cloud of self-doubt. Lord Briggs says: "There were doubts about the permanence of imperial power, the economy, the family, religion, education. By the time of Victoria's death, her subjects had, in many ways, lost their firm confidence in progress."

H.G. Wells thought the 19th century a hasty trial experiment, full of waste. But if the achievements of the age were more technical and material than philosophical, they were still enormous. Its legacy of bold engineering is still in daily use. We are alive and well thanks to huge strides in public health. We draw pleasure from

the self-confidence of its civic architecture, now back in fashion after a period of scorn. We are universally educated. And we still climb Blackpool Tower.

At her diamond jubilee celebrations in London, the Queen Empress was a wheelchair-bound old lady of 78, with barely four years of life left. Born in the age of the stagecoach, she died in the age of the motor car. And no monarch ever saw so much happen in between.

Leading article, page 19

## TOMORROW

Victorian monarchy — and the first European sovereign



**1 Balmoral Castle**  
Victoria and Albert fell in love with the Highlands, which virtually created the Scottish tourist industry as more than 100,000 to glimpse their Queen. After Albert's death Victoria found solace at Balmoral in the company of her 'partner galler', John Brown.

**2 Fasque House**  
Victoria's least favourite Prime Minister despite four terms of office. Gladstone was the archetypal Victorian. The son of a wealthy corn merchant, he spent much of his childhood and later years at a house still resident of the upstairs-downstairs world of self-made men.

**3 Forth Bridge**  
The boldest and best known expression of the Victorians' boundless engineering confidence. The Forth Bridge is still in daily use after 107 years. Its 55,000-tonne structure signalled the end of the Victorian age of iron and the dawn of the new 20th century age of steel.

**4 Durham**  
Jack the Ripper was the most celebrated murderer, but who now remembers Mary Ann Cotton, serial killer who terrorised the North East? She was charged with poisoning three husbands and at least 12 children, was hanged in Durham jail, but who never confessed?

**5 Undercliffe Cemetery**  
Victorians wished to depart the world in the style in which they had lived in it. Undercliffe displays astonishing memorials and graves of the city's wool barons, who went to paradise by way of great temples and even a copy of Edinburgh's Scott Monument.

**6 Queen Street Mill**  
King Cotton was the first major industry to experience mass mechanisation employing thousands in conditions of noise, danger, low wages and long hours. This preserved mill in Burnley with its sea of looms is a powerful evocation of the industrial past.

**7 Blackpool Tower**  
Railway expansion, improving wages and shorter hours gave birth to the annual paid holiday. Blackpool, close to the teeming Lancashire cotton towns, set out to become the premier seaside resort, drawing crowds with such attractions as a copy of the Eiffel Tower.

**8 Brodsworth Hall**  
Life in a wealthy Victorian household is well illustrated at Brodsworth Hall, Doncaster, a fine illustrated villa of the mid-19th century. The house is a study in contrasts: the great hall, and the kitchen, scullery and larder's pantries vividly evoke the world of servants.

**9 Walker Art Gallery**  
Not all Victorian art is in the Tate. The Walker, Liverpool, which includes rooms 21 to 27 of the original collection, is a superb example of the changing role of municipal art, and the wealth that characterised the age.

**10 Llechwedd Slate**  
It's South Wales coal fuelled the empire. Some 100,000 tons of Blaenau Ffestiniog are removed to a huge Victorian industry which relied on cheap labour and showed as scant regard for health and safety as did the collectors of the 19th century.

**11 Wightwick Manor**  
In the dark, Victorian interior of Wightwick Manor, near Wolverhampton, the great hall, with its tall chimney, is a superb example of the wealth and architectural achievement of the Victorian era.

**12 Aston Villa**  
Aston Villa, Birmingham, is a superb example of the grandiose architecture of the Victorian era.

**13 London's Sewers**  
London's sewers were built in the 19th century to deal with the growing population and the resulting pollution. They are now a major attraction, with guided tours and exhibits.

**14 Linley Sambourne House**  
Linley Sambourne House, Dulwich, is a superb example of the wealth and architectural achievement of the Victorian era.

**15 Royal Mausoleum**  
The Royal Mausoleum, Windsor, is a superb example of the wealth and architectural achievement of the Victorian era.

**16 Osborne House**  
The Royal Mausoleum, Osborne, is a superb example of the wealth and architectural achievement of the Victorian era.

**17 Osborne House**  
Victoria and Albert popularised the concept of a royal family. This is the home where the Queen and Prince Consort spent their honeymoon, and where the Queen was born. It is now a museum.

**18 Great Western Railway**  
Railways epitomised the Victorian spirit of enterprise and determination and the transport revolution had no greater genius than Standard Kingdom Britain, where Great Western line from London to Bristol. Some believe it should be a world heritage site.

**19 Royal Mausoleum**  
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# Breeders to go native in search for a busier bee

The hunt is on to recruit more British workers as honey stocks fall, Michael Hornsby reports

BRITISH bee breeders are seeking to restore the racial purity of the native honey bee after more than a century of "mongrelisation" caused by imports of foreign strains. Those behind the ambitious project believe years of cross-breeding have created bad-tempered, sting-happy bees that are becoming less productive because they are ill-adapted to Britain's unpredictable climate.

This year the cool and rainy summer has kept most bees in their hives when they should have been out foraging for nectar, and honey output is forecast to be no more than about half what would be expected in a good season.

Devotees of the native dark European honey bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*, also known as the British black, say it is more docile to handle and performs much better in bad weather than the hybrids of foreign origin which most beekeepers now stock. Tom Robinson, of the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association, says the native bee may also be better equipped to cope with the deadly varroa mite which reached Britain from the Continent five years

ago and has wiped out up to 70 per cent of hives in some southern counties of England.

"We are finding that some of the native bees groom each other and remove the mite and kill it," Mr. Robinson said. "We are trying to locate and identify the main colonies of surviving pure-bred natives with the aim of selecting and breeding from them."

Until about the middle of the last century the dark European honey bee was the only kind found in Britain. It had adapted to local conditions after moving north from the Mediterranean at the end of the last Ice Age.

Imports of foreign bees began in 1880 and increased hugely after the First World

War to restock hives devastated by Isle of Wight disease, an infection of the respiratory tract.

Although the vast majority of bees reared by Britain's estimated 35,000 beekeepers are now mongrels, colonies of native or near-native bees still exist in Ireland and, the association believes, in isolated areas of northern England and Wales. "We are inviting beekeepers to send us specimens from these colonies," Mr. Robinson said. "The bees will then be passed on to biologists at the University of York for morphometric measurement."

The technique of morphometry involves detailed measurement of bodily features such as tongue and abdominal hair length and the vein pattern in the wings. Scientists know exactly what to look for because of the existence of "uncontaminated" pre-1859 British bees, including one found during excavation of a 10th-century Viking settlement in York.

Alan Johnson, national chairman of the British Beekeepers Association, thinks the idea of restoring the native bee is a good one in theory, but

doubts its practicability. "I fear man's interference has already gone too far to be reversed," he said. "To have any impact the project would require huge co-operation between beekeepers, many of whom swear by cross-breeding. Put ten beekeepers in a room and you get ten different viewpoints."

Queen bees mate on the wing with any drones that happen to be in the vicinity, so even if beekeepers restock with pure-bred natives they would find it difficult to prevent interbreeding with other strains of bees, except in remote areas miles from other hives.

Artificial insemination is possible, but is a difficult technique requiring equipment costing more than £1,000 and beyond the means and capabilities of all but a handful and highly dedicated beekeepers.

Other techniques include "time isolation" in which the queen and chosen drones are released for mating at a time of day when other drones do not normally fly. But for this to be effective all or most of the

beekeepers in an area would have to agree to use such methods. Britain may have to accept that its bees are as irrevocably racially mixed as its people.

□ This week has been declared National Varroa Week, so that all beekeepers will check their hives simultaneously to stop the disease spreading further.

so far north. Like the tarantula, the purse-web has four lungs and six eyes, but its most impressive feature is its fangs, which account for a tenth of its length.

Deadly to its prey, the spider is harmless to humans. It lives inside a tube-shaped burrow six inches under the ground. A vertical tube is on top of the ground. When insects walk across this, the spider will dash to slit the silk with its fangs and grab its prey from underneath, injecting it with poison. The purse-web can kill insects twice as large as itself, such as grasshoppers.

A male and female live inside each tunnel. The male will die within a year but the female may live seven times as long. A male will express its interest by finding a widow spider and drumming a special rhythm on the tube to ensure that she does not think he is the next dinner course.

Richard Wilson, a volunteer with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, recovered two male purse-webs from traps left out to assess the threat to Britain's wildlife of global warming. "It is an important discovery," Matthew Shardlow, the RSPB's invertebrate ecologist expert, said. "It adds conservation value to the site. They are charismatic little beasts."

The purse-web will come under threat if its habitat becomes wetter due to global warming. Although a mobile species, the spider is slow at colonisation and can travel only about ten metres a year. "If its habitat becomes wet the spider may not be able to migrate quickly enough. It is very fuzzy about where it chooses to live," Mr. Shardlow said.

A rare species of wasp was discovered at the Minsmere site last summer. The *Diadonotus insidiosus* solitary wasp has been found at only 20 sites internationally and is featured in the Red Data Book for endangered species.

Mind and Matter, page 13



The native British black: more docile to handle, performs better in bad weather, and even grooms its friends

## Tarantula's cousin found in Suffolk nature reserve



The purse-web spider, which has enormous fangs

By JANE MACKINNON

AN INVESTIGATION into the effects of global warming on a Suffolk nature reserve has uncovered a colony of spiders directly related to the deadly tarantula.

The purse-web spider, *Anyphaena affinis*, is Britain's closest relative to the tropical tarantula. The purse-web, named after the shape it spins, has been discovered at the Minsmere nature reserve. Colonies of the spider, which is about the size of a 50p piece, have been found on the South Coast and on Hampstead Heath in north London, but it has never been sighted

so far north. Like the tarantula, the purse-web has four lungs and six eyes, but its most impressive feature is its fangs, which account for a tenth of its length.

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Talking about sex can make Britain healthier

By IAN MURRAY

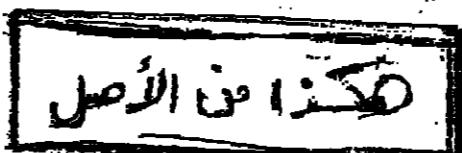
THE Government wants us all to talk openly about sex this week in order to improve the health of the nation.

Prudery, it seems, lies behind Britain having the highest teenage pregnancy rate in western Europe, abortions rising for the first time in five years and the number of sexually transmitted diseases increasing by 6 per cent a year.

Launching the first sexual awareness week, the Health Education Authority has joined the Family Planning Association in calling for more informative discussion and less embarrassed giggling.

According to Anne Weyman, the association's chief executive: "Sex is a normal, enjoyable part of everyday life and should be treated as such. Countries with more open attitudes towards sex have lower rates of unplanned pregnancy and studies show that young people are less likely to have early sex if there is good communication about the subject at home. We are emphasising that sex is fun and talking is the key to a healthy sex life."

Everyone from 16 to 70 is being urged to talk about sex with wives, lovers, friends and family at least once a day. Although men are supposed to think about sex every nine minutes and women at least daily, most Britons do not take it seriously. "If sex is treated as a joke, then young people will not realise that it can have serious consequences," Michelle Misgalla, of the association, said. "Some young people just don't equate sex with getting pregnant."





# 'There was a torrent ... she was gone'

## Landslide survivor tells how he lost his wife to a rush of mud and water

By RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

**MIRACLE** survivor Stuart Diver told yesterday how his wife drowned when she was swept from his grasp after they were buried in their bed under tons of concrete by an avalanche.

The rugged 27-year-old Australian ski instructor sat up in a Canberra hospital bed to thank rescuers — one of whom stayed by him in the perilous rubble for 12 hours in a fragile rescue shift.

But behind Mr Diver's smiles of relief for his rescue from the disaster that is believed to have killed 19 others lay the realisation that his wife's body was still entombed in the buried chalet at Thredbo.

Mr Diver told rescuers that he had hung on desperately to her in the darkness as they lay trapped in their bed. She was pinned down and he held her head up so she could breathe. But there was a sudden rush of mud and water and she was swept out of his arms.

Rescue helicopter spokesman Bruce Tarrant said: "There was a stream of water running down the slope and she was slipping out of his grip. He hung on desperately, he doesn't know how long for. But then there was a sudden rush of mud and water and she was swept out of his arms."

Mr Diver said he survived by pressing his nose against a concrete slab about two inches above him to breathe as near

freezing water threatened to engulf him for 60 hours.

He escaped with frostbitten toes, hypothermia and dehydration, and even managed to joke with a rescuer before exclaiming as the sight of daylight ended his ordeal: "That sky's fantastic."

The Fire Services Commander, Rob Killham, said: "He told us that his wife had been pinned by something very heavy on the mattress next to him after the collapse. He said water was running through there and that she had drowned." He was unable

**He only had an inch or two above his nose and he put his head against the slab and sucked in air**

to hold on to her because of the force of the water.

Paul Featherstone, the paramedic who spent 12 hours underground with Mr Diver, said: "A number of times he could hear the rush of water starting to build up behind him and he just knew that he was going to get hit with water again. He only had an inch or two above his nose and he would lift his head and put it against the slab and suck in air."

When he was pulled from the rubble, Mr Diver had been in complete darkness for three days.

Mr Diver told rescuers he heard a loud blast before he

was pulled from the rubble of the ski chalet at Thredbo Alpine Village.

Two Thredbo Alpine Village ski lodges crumbled last Wednesday night. "He said it was like a loud explosion. He thought actually that the house had been bombed and that within seconds the whole place erupted," Mr Featherstone said.

Mr Diver yesterday spoke publicly for the first time since his ordeal: "I would just like to thank everyone who was involved in my rescue and to all the people who have prayed for me and given me so much," he said.

"It's been overwhelming and I don't think I'd have made it through without the involvement of all those people. It's been fantastic, and thanks very much."

Last night Mr Diver's condition was described as remarkable. "This man's chances of survival were one in a million," Dr Richard Morris said. Mr Diver is expected to be well enough to go home later this week.

Mr Diver and his wife were well known in the Thredbo community, where he was a ski instructor and she worked as a receptionist for a local company.

A total of nine bodies have now been found beneath the rubble, but a further ten people are still missing.

Rescue workers have dug 80ft of tunnels in an attempt to reach the bedrooms and kitchens of the collapsed ski lodges, but hopes of finding anyone else still alive are fading fast.

Floor plans of the lodges are being used to target bedrooms which, due to the late hour of the disaster, are believed to hide many of the missing victims. Superintendent Sanderson said: "We must not give up hope. We are proceeding with the work in the hope that we might locate some other signs of life. But the chances of other survivors have got to be pretty small."

There are also growing fears of a second landslide after it emerged that part of the debris had slipped more than a foot over the past 36 hours.

### Tearful father celebrates 'miracle'

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

STEVE DIVER last night choked back tears of joy after his son, Stuart, was plucked alive from the Australian landslide tragedy.

Mr Diver, 56, a Glaswegian who emigrated from Scotland in the 1960s, said: "I certainly never lost hope. I continued to hope there was a miracle, and there was."

He spoke to his son while he was still trapped underground. "I spoke to him on

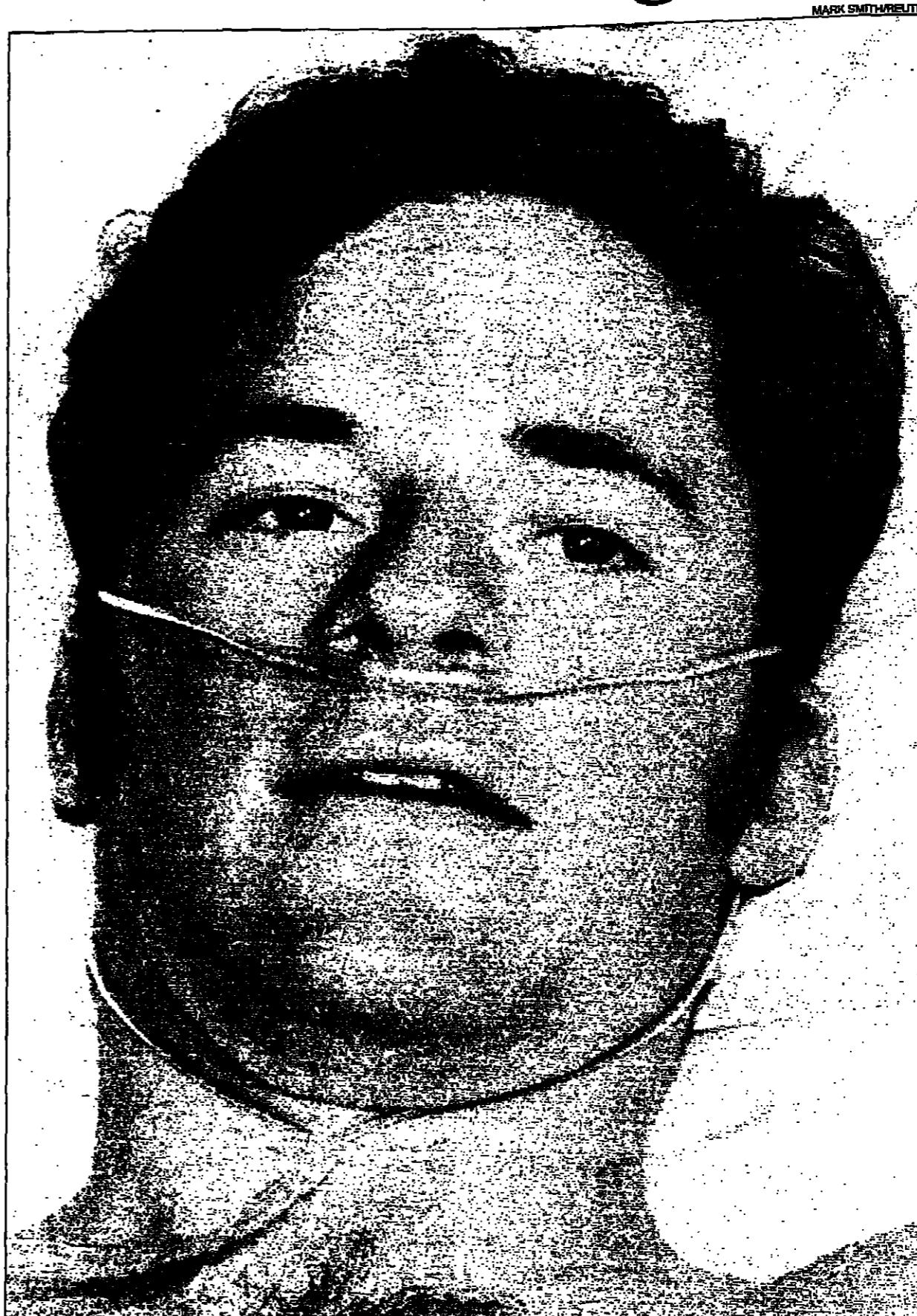
the phone while he was still in there. I just said hello and told him we were with him. It was very brief ... but satisfying just to hear his voice."

Stuart's brother, Euan, a firefighter, was first on the scene after hearing the landslide in his lodge just 100ft away. He led the initial rescue attempt but eventually withdrew after realising his brother and sister-in-law were among the victims.

Bob Dunn, a doctor at the scene, said last night: "We are

very pleased that he is in such good condition and that he is continuing to improve. He has great support from his family and he's very level-headed and sensible which will all be helpful to him to resolve any problems he needs to tackle.

"He's talked to a lot of people about his experiences. We need to give him a great deal more time to regain his strength, so I haven't asked him any questions about what happened down there."



Stuart Diver was pulled from the rubble of a ski chalet at the Thredbo ski resort after 60 hours and said to rescuers "That sky's fantastic". Doctors said that his chance of survival had been a million to one

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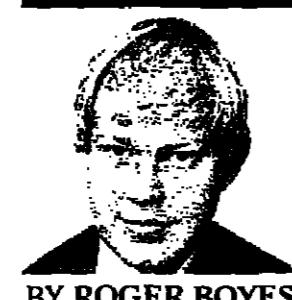
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## Plain-speaking Herzog puts Bonn's lame ducks in a flutter

**INSIDE GERMANY**



BY ROGER BOYES

**I**t is an act of unusual collective wisdom. Cabinet ministers are spending their summer holidays inside Germany or at least within hailing distance of Bonn megaphones. Hoods in the East have seen a flotilla of politicians getting their feet wet. Tomorrow they will be at work again in Bonn for an emergency debate on the stalled and probably doomed "reform of the century", the proposed overhaul of the tax system.

More and more, the Kohl government looks a lame duck. It needs to modernise but lacks the energy to con-

vative" electorate rather than on their own faltering leadership. The Social Democratic Opposition thinks, meanwhile, that it is displaying muscle by blocking Helmut Kohl's tax reforms. In fact it is doing the Chancellor a favour, deflecting blame from the Government. The result is a stalemate that is dragging Germany down in the world's competitiveness leagues.

Little that business leader Hans-Olaf Henkel is calling for a complete rethink of Germany's federal political structure. The postwar arrangement of checks and balances, Germany's fabled consensus society, seems to

be more check than balance. Herr Henkel is, as they say in German, a "man with corners", an awkward customer. As such, he is one of my favourite characters in the otherwise mediocre cast of the Bonn political theatre. On modernising the economy — he favours the British model — he speaks for many manufacturers as befits the head of the German Confederation of Industry. But he is also in step with, or even a pace ahead of, President Herzog, who has been urging the political class to wake from its Rip Van Winkle slumber.

It is not clear just how far the President agrees with

Herr Henkel's political vision, which is to alter the balance between upper and lower chambers to make political decision-making quicker and sleeker. Even so, Herr Henkel has hit on a deep truth: German politics should have changed fundamentally after unification, but did not.

The country grew larger, yet its institutions failed to adapt. The quest for stability in a rapidly changing Europe has become stagnation at the heart of the continent. The gridlock in Bonn will not end — and this is the depressing thing — with the departure of Herr

Kohl. Whatever the outcome of next year's parliamentary election, the parties will continue to trip themselves up. There is no powerful constituency for radical change or institutional reform.

The best we have is the strange informal alliance between Herr Henkel and President Herzog. That makes the next presidential election a possibility. So, too, is Professor Jutta Limbach, the head of the constitutional court.

Yet none of these politicians has the necessary voice, the talent for plain-speaking, needed to demand sacrifice from the Germans. Herr Waigel is too closely identified with the Kohl Govern-

ment. The others are, by instinct soft-spoken conciliators. The German President obviously does not have the clout of the French or the American heads of state. One Bonn wag compares the role with that of a dynamic British monarch — "without the carriages or Cana". Over the past few years German Presidents have discovered that they really do have a role to articulate unpleasant truths. President Herzog, sniffing the brackish air of Bonn, is doing just that, and remarkably the Germans are listening. Someone should persuade him to stay on for a second term.

### Muslims threatened by drunken Croat mob

D. M. &amp; R. FOREIGN STAFF

BRITISH peacekeepers in Bosnia staged a Muslim vigil as armoured vehicles drove in to protect newly returned villagers from an angry mob of Croats. Nato officials said.

Dozen Croat mobs returned to the village of Kravice after threatening it on Sunday. Major Wilkinson, a spokesman for the Nato Stabilisation Force, said: "They had grouped themselves in the afternoon to the north and south of the village and 35 Muslims were raped."

The refugees had been filtering back to the town of Kravice and surrounding villages about 60 miles north of Sarajevo.

A dozen of local Croats called in now many Muslims had gathered to the area. They had a road all day on the 300m present more from the back, says Ivanko, a Croats National International Task Force (IPTF) spokesman said.

The police failed to disperse the crowd after it turned violent and the confrontation continued into Saturday

morning. Croats hung round in the night drinking heavily and waiting for the soldiers to return. One employee was seen burning in the area and an IPTF vehicle was shot early this morning by Croats who were heavily intoxicated," Mr Ivanko said. "The southern British troops were taking up positions to protect the Muslims. Two villages were affected, though late yesterday Nato peacekeepers were only protecting Kravice since the Muslims had fled two of the settlements after several days of threats and taunts by Croats despite the presence of the British troops.

## Blair urged by Italy to form alliance on EU

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN FLORENCE

THE Italian Prime Minister, Professor Romano Prodi, took advantage of Tony Blair's Italian connection at the weekend to urge an Anglo-Italian alliance on European Union policies from unemployment to the single currency.

"We need common action, a common approach," Signor Prodi told the Prime Minister, who on Saturday began his annual holiday in Tuscany with his family.

The Blairs are staying on the estate of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General and millionaire Labour MP.

The acre multi-million pound estate, in the hills of "Chiantishire" near San Gimignano, has a neo-classical villa, a 45ft swimming pool, a tennis court and a chef-cum-butler from Galicia called Paolo.

The Blairs have become known in the area for their "casual chic" and their love of Tuscan food and wine. Last year Mr Blair praised Tuscan "as a land where you can breathe history and culture", adding: "And I am also partial to a couple of glasses of wine".

But the Prime Minister put off the delights of "San Jim" (as British expats call it) for a day to don a lightweight suit and tie and hold talks with Signor Prodi in nearby Bologna.

The Italian Prime Minister told Mr Blair that Britain and Italy had a common interest in countering the weight of Germany and France in Europe, and urged Britain to join the single currency despite its doubts.

Signor Prodi, perhaps realising that Bologna has always combined *la grassa e la dotta* (the fat and the learned), adroitly steered the two fam-

ilies to Diana's, one of Bologna's top restaurants where they tucked into mortadella, Bologna's sausage, with tagliatelle (pronounced by Mr Blair to be "very, very good") and tartufo, all washed down by two of the best local wines, a sparkling Antinori white and a Lambrusco red.

Then it was back to San Gimignano, this time in shirt-sleeves, and ten days of relaxation. *La Stampa* remarked that the fact the Blairs had chosen Tuscany for their holiday for the second year running showed that "Chiantishire" had "confirmed its status as the favourite hideaway for the rich and famous — particularly from Great Britain".

Rome's rail backbone was split in two yesterday after a construction crane fell across tracks in a Rome station, forcing tens of thousands of travellers to wait for hours in sweltering stations. By early evening some railway officials cautiously predicted that railway traffic would return to normal today. There was no official estimate of how many people were stranded or delayed.

Passengers showed their way into buses, some of them lent by Rome's mass transit system, to be shuttled to stops south of the capital, and vice versa, to proceed with their journey on one of the vacation season's busiest weekends.

"It's been a day from hell," said Aldo Guaracino, a 21-year-old New Yorker trying to backpack her way from Paris to Naples.

For most of the day, no trains were moving south or north through the capital.



Michel Menin, right, a famed tightrope-walker and deputy mayor of Revinay in east France, officiates at his daughter's wedding 25ft above the ground.

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### Weekend climber deaths take Alps toll above 30

Grenoble: Ten mountaineers died in the Alps this weekend, bringing the death toll from climbing accidents in the mountain range in recent days to more than 30, officials said. The latest victims died in

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12.4%	£394.07	£788.15	£1,182.19	£1,576.75

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# Are we ready for the next plague?

We are dropping our defences against disease, Anjana Ahuja reports

In the Middle Ages, one would not have lingered by the marshes of eastern England, particularly those in Kent and Essex. Nowhere in the country, which was falling prey to plagues, was more hospitable to the malaria parasite.

The menace of malaria hung over British shores until the mid-19th century, when it mysteriously declined. By 1940, the disease was no longer a threat to humans, because of rising standards of hygiene, the falling price of the anti-malarial drug quinine and the increasing availability of cattle, on which mosquitoes prefer to dine. But there is no guarantee, says a leading parasitologist, that malaria will not haunt the nation again.

The warning has been issued by Robert Desowitz, Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina, who has spent many of his 71 years studying insect-borne diseases in places such as Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Burma, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, India, Laos, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

His view, expressed in his book *Tropical Diseases*, is that the "golden age of antibiotics is waning". As a result, he says, it is not impossible that the nightmares once vanquished by modern science will recur.

Isolated outbreaks of Ebola and Lassa fever are like the rise of HIV, a sign to him that we should be on our guard. However, he does not wish to seem apocalyptic. "It may be true that there are diseases coming out of the jungle to kill us," he says. "My response is that we don't know that, but we ought to be alert."

His book is an eloquent, and sometimes alarming, history of how diseases have hitched their way around the world. The subtext is that humans, particularly in the colder climes (this includes the British), live in a fool's paradise. Our defences are further weakened by mass migration and global change, leading to greater changes in epidemiology. He expresses incredulity

that worldwide efforts to combat infectious disease are being wound down.

"I was listening on the radio this morning to America's new military chief of staff, who was saying that we cannot demilitarise against old enemies," he says. "The symmetry with disease struck me. We are not properly prepared."

The science budget is shrinking. My opinion is that the World Health Organisation is scientifically bankrupt. We are having problems with infectious disease. If you were going to certain parts of the world, you would be hard pushed to find a really good anti-malarial drug. We have neither cures nor preventions for viral diseases such as Ebola, Lassa and HIV."

One particular worry is climate change, which he sees as an enormous potential problem. Tropical diseases such as malaria are very temperature-sensitive — higher temperatures allow an influx of alien pests, and the warmth encourages the pests to breed more rapidly.

Other researchers have been discovering the effect of climate change on unwelcome visitors. Biologists at Leeds University have set up a simple experiment that shows what happens to insects when faced with temperature changes. Using eight linked

cages, and three species of fruit fly adapted to different temperatures. Prof.

essor Bryan Shorrocks and Dr Andrew Davis have tried to replicate what would happen to fruit flies if the temperature changed across Europe. The Biotechnology and Biological Research Council financed the £241,000 project.

The cages were connected by thin tubes, through which the flies could migrate. The temperatures in the cages ranged from 10°C to 25°C; the intention was to mimic average temperatures across a swath of Europe stretching from Leeds to southern Spain. The optimum temperatures for the three types of fruit fly — *Drosophila subobscura*, *Drosophila*

*simulans*, and *Drosophila melanogaster* — were, respectively, 15°C, 20°C and 25°C. Fruit flies are easy to use and they breed quickly.

When each species was tested on its own, and confined to one cage, it became extinct at temperature extremes. The next step was again to test each species on its own, but to allow it to move through the tubes between cages.

Dr Davis reports: "The flies survived across the whole temperature regime. Where they became extinct, the population was topped up by individuals from other cages looking for more food and space to lay eggs."

The last, and most complex stage, was to pollute the cages with different permutations of the three species. This was where the most interesting results began to emerge. For example, when *subobscura* and *simulans* were thrown together, the *simulans* species dominated its familiar temperature climate of 20°C, but *subobscura* was more populous at about 10°C, well below its optimum temperature.

Dr Davis says that each species did not necessarily behave according to expectation. He concludes: "We may not be able to predict where a species will occur on the globe purely by knowing its temperature requirements. It's surprising."

In other words, matching the pest to a temperature zone is not that simple. Dr Davis is keen not to be seen as alarmist. "I am not saying these effects will happen, or that they will be important," he says. "But some of the things that might happen with global warming may need planning, particularly pest problems."

Professor Desowitz does not envisage doom for the human race. Not yet, anyway. "People have survived plagues before, but we are not preparing ourselves properly. Perhaps," he adds, not without a whiff of menace, "London will become malarious again."

• *Tropical Diseases*, by Robert Desowitz, HarperCollins, £18.99.

Perhaps London will become malarious again'



The malaria mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*: there is no guarantee that the disease will not haunt the nation again

□ Gender-bending error □ Eyeless worms □ High living

## When science gets it wrong

JUNE last year, a team from Tulane University in New Orleans published a study in *Science* that sent a chill through the environmental movement and earned big headlines around the world. It claimed that environmental chemicals harmless on their own, formed a potent "gender-bending" cocktail when mixed — up to 1,600 times as powerful in mimicking the effects of natural oestrogens as any of the individual components were.

Last week the team quietly withdrew the study, admitting in the same journal that neither they nor anybody else had been able to repeat it.

"Whatever merit this publication contained, and despite the enthusiasm expressed," the team said, "it is clear that any conclusions drawn from the paper must be suspended until such time, if ever, as the data can be substantiated."

But if came as no surprise to one critic, Steven J. Milloy, author of the highly entertaining  *Junk Science Home Page* on the World Wide Web (<http://www.junkscience.com>), who handed the Tulane study on publication as "probably nonsense". Mr Milloy, executive director of the Advanced Science Coalition in Washington, naturally welcomed the retraction, but asked the question,

"Where's all the publicity now?" The Tulane team, which was led by Dr John McLachlan, tested four pesticides against yeast cells engineered to contain the gene for the human oestrogen receptor, plus a "reporter" gene that makes the yeast culture turn blue when a chemical binds to the receptor. On their own, the pesticides — dieldrin, endosulfan, toxaphene and chlordane — showed only a weak response. When they were tried in pairs, the activity shot up by between 100 and 1,600 times. "It was really quite astounding," Dr McLachlan told *Science* at the time.

These findings were seized on by people who fear that

environmental pollutants are slowly subverting the male sex and increasing the incidence of abnormalities such as undescended testicles. Lynn Goldman, a senior official at the US Environmental Protection Agency, said they could have "enormous policy implications". A new law subsequently instructed the agency to set up a screening programme for oestrogenic activity in pesticides.

The scientists made an honest error, and deserve credit for a graceful retraction. But policymakers should also take note, not only of what happened but also of Mr Milloy's home page address.

### A home on methane hill

DEEP IN the Gulf of Mexico, US oceanographers have found colonies of eyeless worms living on methane ice. Until fairly recently, nobody knew that this form of ice — properly called a methane hydrate — even existed.

The discovery was made on a mound of methane hydrate 8ft in diameter and 1,800ft down. At great depths and low temperatures, methane forms hydrates, which are usually covered by deep layers of sediment. But in a few places, such as this one, they appear

above the seabed. The one to two-inch long worms, flat and pinkish, teem over the surface of the mound, burrowing into holes in its surface. "When you look at it, you go 'Wow,'" Dr Charles Fisher of Pennsylvania State University, a member of the expedition team, said.

The speculation is that the worms, which have fully developed digestive tracts, either live on bacteria that in turn live on the methane, or exist in a symbiotic relationship with them. The find shows that wherever on Earth there is a niche, however improbable, there is likely to be something living in it.



### Altitude and winning ways

LIVING high and training low is the secret of athletic success, according to a study in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*. This will confirm what a lot of athletes already believed, but it is still useful to have scientific evidence.

Two physiologists at the University of Texas South-

western Medical Centre, Doctors Benjamin Levine and James Stray-Gundersen, timed 39 amateur runners in a 5,000-metre race at sea level. Then they split them into three groups, who trained for four weeks. One group lived and trained at sea level, another

lived and trained at 2,500m, and the third lived at 2,500m but trained at 1,200m.

The only group to improve in the next 5,000m race were those who lived high but trained low. The combination works because living high generates additional red blood cells, while training low enables athletes to use their muscles intensively, which is much harder if training is done at high altitude.

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# 'I don't kill people very often'

Throwing the bones is as important as carrying a pistol when it comes to fighting crime in South Africa's outlying areas. Sam Kiley reports

**I**nspектор Jackson Gopane of the South African Police Service is planning to kill someone with a switch strap. He doesn't know the name of his victim — that choice is in the hands of the spirit world.

He will shut the wooden door of his sacred hut against the over-hot winds of South Africa's Northern Province. In the cool, thatched interior, surrounded by strips of dried puff adder, bits of exotic tree bark, scores of jam jars filled with bugs, beetles and animal fat, he will strip off his blue uniform to conduct a secret — and expensive — ritual.

Using the dead man's wristband, Inspector Gopane will resurrect Sergeant Johannes Siphulu and send him 200 miles across the veld into the heart of Soweto. There, he will take revenge on the crook who killed him in a shootout. Nelson Mandela's benign and smiling image will oversee the proceedings, looking down from a curtain that keeps blinding light out of the hut.

"The spirit might fly down to Soweto in a loaf of bread," he says. The fee for the service is R2,000 (about £285) — more than a month's wages for the average South African.

Inspector Gopane is neither a con man, nor loony. He is a traditional healer, recognised as such by the Health Ministry. Most South Africans would call him a sangoma — a witchdoctor.

He is also one of the few success stories in a police force that has almost collapsed under the strain of democracy. Under apartheid, officers placed more importance on keeping blacks in their place and the "Commies" out of power than preventing crime. As a result, fewer than a third of South African districts have had proper training, and many have failed to adjust to policing in a democracy. One in 40 South Africans will die in car smashes or violent crime.

But in Inspector Gopane's manor, a vast area the size of an English county, things have improved.

"I don't kill people very often. I have to be very careful. If I get the *muti* (magic) wrong, then the spirits will come back and finish me," he says, sitting on the matted floor of his mud hut with a towel wrapped around his midriff. His police-issue, knee-

length socks peek out from below the hem. "Most of the time people come to me with medical problems, or if they have had something stolen — mainly goats and cattle — or if they have been bewitched and have had a run of very bad luck."

His main diagnostic tool ripples inside the skin of a genet cat, the tail acting as a stopper. He mutters a few quick prayers and spills a

headress of multiple animal skins — locals greet him with warmth and familiarity. The non-smoking, teetotal lay preacher at St John's Apostolic Church, Ntshama, is formally employed as the community relations officer at Bochum police station, 20 miles from his home.

The desiccated outpost, close to the borders of Zimbabwe and Botswana, is in the centre of what must be the most superstitious region in southern Africa. For decades, Johannesburg's newspapers have thrilled and disgusted their mainly white readers with tales of witch-burning and *muti* killings, often of children.

Stories about old ladies caught with buckets of dried genitals and human hearts reinforced even liberal white perceptions that South Africa's blacks were not quite ready for freedom, much less for power.

However the stories were interpreted, they were true. Bochum is South Africa's Salem. Women are particularly at risk from accusations of witchcraft. Until recently, scores were killed every year by irate neighbours seeking an explanation for the illness or death of relatives that went beyond poverty, ignorance of basic hygiene and a lousy health service. In a world in which magic is very real to most people, what easier way to purge a sense of grief than to burn an old lady out of her house or hack her to pieces?

More effective still is his "mirror" — a grimy doily pinned to his wall. Clients are asked to arrive with an empty stomach and to drink a special "tea", which sends them into a trance. They then stare at the rag and ask it where their stolen goods are and who has taken them.

"It's great," says Inspector Gopane, 50. "They see exactly what is happening, like in a movie. Then I cast a spell to keep the criminal on the spot while they go and fetch him. We recently recovered 95 stolen goats this way. Even the [police] anti-theft

mixture of bones, ancient dominoes and a sea shell denoting death onto the floor.

In police work, he says, the bones are "more reliable than the telephone. They tell me straight away what has happened".

What easier way for the old apartment supporters to confirm the worst racist preconceptions of their followers and refocus discontent on hocus-pocus than to let it happen?

When Jackson Gopane entered the police academy in Bloemfontein, capital of the then Orange Free State (it has since dropped the Orange) in 1980, the brick-faced Afrikaers who glared out of his graduation photograph could never have imagined that the

young man from their country's arid north would end up a fully fledged, practising witchdoctor working inside their beloved force. Neither did the young Gopane.

"It wasn't until seven years later that my grandfather (sic) came to me in a dream and told me to become a healer. Until then, I had only been saying prayers for people in trouble. But after he told me, I woke up and found the bones under my pillow. Later, other ancestors taught me what to do with the *muti*, which trees to use and what to say to them when I need their help," says Inspector Gopane over a snatched lunch of baked beans and an egg sandwich. His open and

friendly manner is disarming. He makes the weird sound ordinary. But he has had extraordinary success in his new role as a bridge between police work and tribal superstition.

Just outside Bochum police station live about 20 middle-aged women — survivors of witch-hunts. Driven from their homes by mobs of mainly young men, they dare not go home for fear of being burnt alive.

Several other "witches' villages" filled with ordinary women, often widows, are scattered throughout the area. Blackened rings are all that remain of the homes they saw burnt by frenzied mobs.

As cop-cum-social worker,

Inspector Gopane's main job is to try to ensure the villages do not get any bigger and that unmarked "witches' graveyards" get no fuller.

A police spokesman in the regional headquarters of Petersburg said that since Inspector Gopane had arrived with his pistol and bones, there had been no proven *muti* killings and the witches' compounds were getting smaller.

"We haven't had any killings since early last year. Whatever the sangoma is doing, it works," mutters a white policeman. "It's creepy."

The inspector is more sanguine. "Most of these cases are really about jealousy and local political rivalries. People around here are very easily

turned against those who are accused of putting the evil eye on some poor soul. Now they have a chance. They can come to me and I go into the village to sort it out," he says, after settling a dispute between two women for the affections of a young man called Jonas.

A swift word with the warring women established that Rebecca had accused her rival of being a *witch* in a fit of jealousy. Her rival, Monica, fled to Bochum before a mob could be assembled.

The whole thing seemed to be sorted out very quickly in Inspector Gopane's neat little office. What was the trick? "I told Jonas to stop fooling around or else I'd widen his private parts."

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There is a kind of mean spiritedness of which I am the focus.

# 'There is a kind of mean spiritedness of which I am the focus'

Jason Cowley finds Martin Amis musing on his place in posterity

**H**ow good is Martin Amis? As recently as the spring of 1995, before the farrago over his demanding (and receiving) a £500,000 advance for his poorly received novel about literary envy, *The Information*, he was considered very good indeed. "The most influential writer of his generation", to adopt the tag of his publishing blurb. His mode of writing about low life in a high style, his combination of Blokiness and intellectualism and his ironic interest in porn and junk culture resonated with a generation for whom the book was becoming too slow a form.

And yet there is a growing feeling among critics that he is a one-track stylist, a monovocal showman, the synthetic master of the dazzling phrase for whom the world will always be represented in caricature. Certainly his journalism, in which much of his best work is done, is all voice: laddish, boisterous, clever; as is his new novel, *Night Train*, a short, perplexing thriller, narrated by a female American cop, Mike Hoolihan (giving her a male name, I am a typical Amis wheeze).

Apart from his originality as a stylist, Amis's great virtue is his eagerness to grapple with modernity. His vision of England, although fiendishly cynical, is an inclusive one: he leaves out little, from black culture to high culture. Amis is locked in a restless quest for novelty. He wants to be first with a new way of writing about modern life. "I don't want to write a sentence that any guy could have written," he once told an interviewer.

*The Information* is his most autobiographical novel. It concerns two rivalrous novelists, one a worthless success, the other an obscure failure. The novel is a comedy of cosmic humiliation — the small struggles of the writers are set in the context of an indifferent universe. You sense that the planet is on the edge of collapse. There is, too, a sense of imminent apocalypse in

*Envy*. In particular, he complains of the aggressiveness of Amis's style, of how he bullies the reader into finding his world impressive, of how every sentence must carry the stamp of a manufacturer's logo. Amis, Mars-Jones also suggests, cannot write convincingly about women; because he has no interest in narrative psychology, motivation or agency, his characters tend to be little more than cartoons. Objections such as these are thought to underpin his repeated failure to make the Booker prize shortlist (he has made it only once, with his least characteristic novel *Time's Arrow*).

Few writers spend as much time musing on the value of their future stock. "I think all writers," he once said, "if they mean business, if they're ambitious, have got to think they're the best. You haven't got a chance of being the best unless you think you're the best." As I found when I visited him at the door of his large house holding his baby daughter, Fernanda. Fit and tanned, he leads you into the open spaces of his drawing room. His footstep echo on the hard, stripped wooden floor of the room, with its high white walls and huge television. Later, reclining in a canvas chair in his study, Amis exudes an air of worldly assurance: the blue smoke from his permanent cigarette (he rolls his own) spirals and curls.

He listens patiently to criticism of his work.

The task of the novelist is to interpret the present and the near future, to ask where we are heading, how are we changing, he says, through a haze of cigarette smoke. "I knew from an early age that I wanted to write about everyday life; that I wouldn't write, say, westerns or historical works. I would have been surprised if I'd set anything in the past, unless, as I did in *Time's Arrow*, I wanted to explain something about the present. Looking at Thomas Pynchon's new novel, I ask myself: can I read any more pastiche, can I get through another novel that has, as it

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*London Fields* (1989), his impressive work of millennial despair. "So late in the century, so late in the goddamned day," complains Samson Young, the American narrator, who is dying from an unnamed virus. His exhaustion mirrors that of the planet.

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NatWest  
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TOMORROW  
  
Beneath that rather wild exterior, I discovered a rather conventional woman looking for an ordered, bourgeois life

Professor Lewis Wolpert pays tribute to his wife, Jill Neville



father-and-wife pair that had a father-and-work out there at the same time," he says. "I now realise what a dreamy, sentimental guy I had been before all this stuff happened. I knew London, I knew the literary world; but what I didn't know was what a skintown it had become. There is a kind of mean-spiritedness of which I am the focus. I think it must be to do with my dad. What better explains the unrelenting and the malaise in British publishing?"

Amis, 47, professes to be weary of the speculation about his personal life. (He famously said that, in America, his advance would have merited no more than a business paragraph.) He is mystified as to why people are so nasty about him, concluding that it must be something to do with his father. "We were the only

father-and-wife pair that had a father-and-work out there at the same time," he says. "I now realise what a dreamy, sentimental guy I had been before all this stuff happened. I knew London, I knew the literary world; but what I didn't know was what a skintown it had become. There is a kind of mean-spiritedness of which I am the focus. I think it must be to do with my dad. What better explains the unrelenting and the malaise in British publishing?"

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Amis is working out a strange literary destiny. He is unusually interested in being

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It would be hard to find an educated adult in these islands who does not know the first two lines of Philip Larkin's most famous poem. For tourists, visitors and the unpoetically inclined they read: "They left you up, your mum and dad? They may not mean to, but they do."

The poem ends with a defiant plea to stop procreating, and thus bring an end to the human race. This may be his mock saloon-bar philosophy at work but secretly, now and then, I suspect Larkin may have been serious. There is a lot of evidence he could have called on.

We live now in the ever-embracing jungles of our childhood. Wurdwurh alerted us that the child was father to the man. Rousseau layed us into recognition of the imperial estate of a childhood he himself scarcely had. At the end of a tormented century Freud finally blew the gaff on it, and put the sex into it.

Since then, it has become the centre of our domestic and social concerns. It does indeed seem a

## Dark dirty secrets in the Coleridge family

jungle down there, whether you are inside looking out of it, or older looking back on it, or older still looking after it. Where does its territory end? How deeply do its roots reach down, and will they ever stop digging?

This broadening on children came to a head when I read a PhD thesis by Cherry Durrant of Birkbeck College. It is called *The Lives and Works of Hartley, Derwent and Sara Coleridge*. It dropped into my letter box out of the blue. I have never met Durrant, and have no knowledge of her nationality, age, habits or hobbies, but her thesis, which is already a book in my opinion, is an enthralling study, tragic and moving by turns, of the enlightened children of one of the enlightened grandees of our literature — Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

One of my interests in this is that Coleridge's attitude to his children

was very like that of today's New Fathers. Indeed, much of the current practice regarding children can be traced back to the philosophy of Romanticism. Here is the prospective father pondering on pregnancy in a very late-20th century way: "The most obscure of all God's dispensations — it seems coercive against Immaterialism — it starts uneasy doubts respecting Immortality and the pangs the Woman suffers seem inexplicable in the system of optimism."

Hartley, the firstborn, arrives and is rhapsodised over and instantly idealised. Coleridge writes that he wants his children bred "in habits completely rustic". Hartley's boyhood must be spent "wandering like a breeze/ By lakes and sandy shores". God is supreme in Coleridge's philosophy, but nature is the pathway to God and the new child is nature's great



representative. "I deem it wise," Coleridge wrote "to make him nature's playmate." Which he proceeded to do in the most Draconian way. Sadly it turned out that he was

also one of those fathers who hopped off at every opportunity, leaving his sorely misrepresented wife to cope alone, often impetuous, sometimes distraught — as at the death of her second child of which she was not allowed to inform her husband in Germany as it might disturb his studies. He also thought his child was a genius. When the three-year-old Hartley said "Stars be dead lamps, they be not naughty, they be put in the sky with my brother Berkeley", Coleridge interpreted this as a theo-geocentric astronomical hypothesis... "He is a very extraordinary creature and, if he live, will I doubt not prove a great genius."

Hartley became Coleridge's experiment. He used the boy to test his ideas on innocence, intelligence, nature and the development of the mind. He questioned him unceasingly, and one of the child's

most poignant statements was: "Do not ask me so many questions, I can't bear it."

At this time, Durrant tells us, Coleridge would put Hartley on his knee and make him expound the differences between "Real Hartley, Shadow Hartley, Picture Hartley, Looking-Glass Hartley and Echo Hartley". On being shown in a glass a reflection of the mountain view from Coleridge's window in Cumberland he would be encouraged "to express himself concerning the difference between the thing and the image... trying with almost convulsive effort..."

Coleridge was often delighted with his experiments: "I never before saw such an Abstract of thinking as a pure act of energy — a thinking as distinguished from thought." Meanwhile, he staggered from adulteration

to absence to railing at his admirable wife for alleged mistreatment of the children she cared for all the time. A Frankenstein father.

Hartley was led into thought very painful for him. On one occasion he was "thinking all day... what it would be if there were nothing, if all the men and women and trees and grass and birds and beasts and the sky and the ground were all gone". Very soon Coleridge was all gone for Hartley; when he left his family.

Derwent made some sort of escape as, eventually, did Sara. But neither were as intensively in the laboratory as Hartley, who became a sad, lonely drinker of whom his father grew ashamed.

But Larkin can have the last word. Coleridge's own childhood was not a happy one. He endured the hostility of brothers, the early death of a beloved father, the aloofness or indifference of a mother, exile to a boarding school hundreds of miles away. But they too, of course, were fussed up in their turn.

ROS DRINKWATER

The man who wrote the book of Spielberg's *E.T.* is back in the public eye, says Ros Drinkwater

## Why shouldn't a bear be a literary lion?

William Kotzwinkle does not come out to play any more. When his 21st novel is published in this country next week, he won't be signing copies at Hatchards or holding court at the Groucho. Instead, the man described by one newspaper as the Howard Hughes of American literature will be at home on his island off the Maine coast, where the lobster fleet acts as his alarm clock and days begin with him walking his boundaries, doing a little Tai Chi by the ocean before settling down to dream up another prizewinning novel in the sweet solar house designed by his novelist wife Elizabeth Gundy. He can recall the peace being disturbed only once, when a cruise liner passed by and a voice carried over the water. "That's where the guy who wrote *E.T.* lives."

That 21st novel, *The Bear Went Over The Mountain*, is a deliciously funny indictment of publishing hype. A professor is holed up in the Maine backwoods writing his magnum opus. Farmhouse and manuscript go up in flames. He rewrites his book and hides it under a tree for safety. A bear finds it, reads it and sees it not only as pretty hot stuff, but as his passport to becoming a PERSON. He heads for Manhattan, where he is hailed as a literary sensation, no one quite noticing that he is actually a bear. Meanwhile, back in the woods, the professor begins a strange metamorphosis...

read your book." It occurred to me that now was the time to show how a bear could get away with it."

These days Kotzwinkle

won't read a writer who promotes his work on TV. "It's turning art inside out, forcing the writer to become what he's not. It's OK for an extrovert, but extrovert writers tend not to be very deep. Young writers today are groomed to the idea

that you get out there and schmooze. It's understood that you'll tour 30 cities. Some go to 60. I know one writer who did and he came home a cocaine addict.

The bear has what everyone in America wants — an agent, an editor and a publicist. But it's the animal side of us that wants this. We should rise above it."

Despite his high-minded principles, Kotzwinkle is no stranger to sleaze. "The only proper job I ever had was as a reporter on a tabloid newspaper in the days when tabloids were seriously dirty. My first story was *South American Woman Gives Birth to Puppies*. As I wrote it I thought: 'People are going to believe this.' That taught me a valuable lesson: the power of the written word."

Born 58 years ago on the wrong side of the tracks in a Pennsylvanian coal-mining

town, Kotzwinkle trained as an actor in New York until it dawned on him that his improvisation was streets ahead of his acting. Marriage to the intellectual Gundy gave him the courage to write, and after his first book was published he took her to the Canadian wilds.

In the 1980s he flirted with Hollywood, writing several screenplays and called in by Steven Spielberg to write the book of *E.T.* But despite his hugely rewarding collaboration with Spielberg, he decided it wasn't for him. "Hollywood is for directors, not writers," he says. "On Academy Awards night the writers' table is next to the kitchens. You get hot food, but that's about it."

The idea of parallel worlds

is a favourite theme of his. "It's a way of defeating materialism. Remember Hegel — in every era there is thesis and antithesis, conservative and revolutionary. They battle it out until there's a synthesis and another form is born."

"*Think of the Middle Ages* locked inside the Catholic view, very content, very limited. That had to break apart, and that's what's happening right now — the battle between the gross materialism that America typifies and our lost spirit. Curiously enough, our spirit is starting to return in quantum physics, with people like Stephen Hawking recognising the strange interaction between mind and matter — if you look at an electron, it changes its path."

Kotzwinkle is a man in tune with the elements; he could not live any other way. "Nature allows a man to be in touch with his feminine side," he says. "You absorb out of the ground when you walk softly, like an Indian. You feel the weather differently. When the barometer falls you can't think, but you can't fight it. You have to go with the fog and hear what it's saying."

But this is no back-to-the-earth romantic. "I own stock in a number of computer companies — that's how much I believe in them. One day mathematics will prove our interconnectedness, but it's already proven on the Internet. The magic is not just technological, it's psychological. Seeing our commonness is truly our only hope."

"I really do believe that the mystery of the Universe will be revealed by a mathematics so pure, so divine, that it will become graspable by everyone to a certain degree. The next wave will be an understanding of the celestial bodies and our connectedness to them. Science and the arts will lead us all to a better place."

• *The Bear Went Over The Mountain* is published on August 14 by Black Swan



The author in his natural environment: William Kotzwinkle on his island off Maine

## A round of dad's potent brew

IT WAS billed as "A Day At The Races" and the venue was the National Sports Centre where the likes of Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett once recorded so many of their triumphs. Maybe that is why the other acts on this day-long bill seemed to be there as little more than pace-setters for Paul Weller, who with his 20-year track record was guaranteed the gold medal even before the event had started. This was probably deserved but unfortunately it meant that while Weller spent the day preparing himself for a two-hour musical lap of honour at the end, earlier contestants were left sprinting against the clock to make any impression at all.

Allotted a miserly 30 minutes, no one put her time to better use than Beth Orton. Six months ago she was a painfully shy performer struggling to do justice on stage to the highly promising material from her debut album, *Trailer Park*. A summer of festival gigs and the boost of being shortlisted for the Mercury Prize have done wonders for her confidence, for here she defied the "folkie" tag and attacked songs such as *She Cries Your Name* with a refreshing vigour while losing none of her beguiling innocence.

Starting for some bizarre reason with the old Soviet national anthem, Republica offered a tired set of musical clichés on

POP

songs such as *Drop Dead Gorgeous* with infantile lyrics that surely fool no one. Second on the bill, *Skunk Anansie* were allowed a slightly more generous 45 minutes to perform material mostly from their second album *Stoosht Skin*. The band's charismatic black shaven-headed singer, revels in an extreme in-your-face image yet the simple joy of songs such as *Hedonism* lies in the fact that underneath the posturing they are old-fashioned, mainstream pop fare. You were left with just the faintest suspicion that off-duty she may be more at home in Laura Ashley than her combat trousers.

After this series of quick-change musical relays, Weller took up the baton and set off on his marathon at a commendable pace with *The Changeman*. It is, perhaps, the perfect signature tune for someone who started out as a punk iconoclast in the Jam, became a white soulster with the Style Council and then just when his career appeared to have floundered, reinvented himself as a successful solo artist.

Yet Weller has also become known derisively as the grand old man of "dadrock" and has developed a virile relationship with the critics to the point that the small print on his new album *Heavy Soul* bears the ungracious legend:

To anyone who ever stated me "I'm cool" This is a shame for over his last three albums Weller has created a potent brew of driving R&B beats, meaningful guitar textures and muscular vocals. He's hustling 40 but still looks great and although he sings a good octave lower, he is increasingly sounding like a British equivalent of Neil Young, another veteran who manages to renew himself and his audience.

Weller is a nervy performer and his vein throb with pumped-up adrenalin even when he picks up an acoustic to take the set down with a ballad such as *Driving Nowhere*. Yet he is in his true element thrashing an electric guitar with eyes bulging on songs such as *Peacock Sait*, which struts with rooey power, or the moody new single *Brushed*. Perhaps what annoys his critics is that unlike so many of his contemporaries, Weller has not only remained on speaking terms with his original talent but has expanded his vocabulary, too.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

## Mondrian at the Tate

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# Save us from such parodies of the past

Magnus Linklater on the faking of our heritage

This weekend they removed the last few pieces of furniture while restoration work starts on one of the most remarkable houses in Britain. Newhailes is that most precious of relics — an unrestored 18th-century building. No Victorian additions, no baronial turrets, not even a new lick of paint inside. It stands just as it did when Dr Johnson visited in 1773 and described its library as "the most learned room in Europe".

The great (and occasionally notorious) Dalrymple family acquired it in 1707, furnished and decorated it exquisitely, and lived there uninterrupted for nearly 300 years. Short of money in the 19th century, they left it untouched. Now, this architectural "sleeping beauty" has been acquired by the National Trust for Scotland, whose task is to conserve it.

It will be, for them, a supreme test. The curse of old buildings is not benign neglect, but malign attention. All over Britain, historic houses have suffered in the name of "restoration", and the pursuit of authenticity — linked to the search for ever more visitors — has resulted in some awful

examples: waxwork parlour-maids parodying the idea of a "genuine" 19th-century kitchen, piped harpsichord music inviting you to "experience" the elegance of a ducal drawing-room; a "water-garden" or maze installed where none was ever meant to be; plastic chickens and farmyard smells at Robert Burns's cottage in Ayrshire.

The National Trust of England calls this kind of thing a "cultural sheep-dip": plunge the visitor into it and he comes up gasping for air, wondering what he's been through. Instead of learning about the past, he has had an artificial view of history imposed and has been discouraged from using his eyes and, more importantly, imagination.

The glory of houses such as Newhailes, outside Edinburgh, Erdig in North Wales, or Chastleton in Oxfordshire, which is shortly to be opened, is that they have been allowed to speak for themselves. "Consult the genius of the place in all," said Pope in his Epistle to his friend Lord Burlington. An over-restored building, said William Morris, is "useless to scholarship and chilling to enthusiasm". The best effects are accomplished by the simplest means.

That, of course, is not always possible when you are dealing with hundreds of thousands of visitors and trying to entice thousands more. The Tower of London, Hampton Court and Stirling Castle have long since parted company with historic reality. They may be stuffed with historical artefacts, reeking of great events and crowned or severed heads, but they have crossed the museum barrier and become icons rather than real places. Now, armed with huge lottery grants, other such places have acquired that other 20th-century weapon of

Buildings are cursed not by benign neglect, but malign attention

Through the pages of her cookery book, an absorbing insight into the world of an 18th-century housewife

# Annabella's recipe for a truly good life

In October, 1721, Alexander Pope, the great poet, went to stay with John Guise at Rendcomb in Gloucestershire. While he was there, he wrote a letter to one of his earliest friends, Edward Blount, a cousin of Martha Blount, who was the love of Pope's life. Like Pope himself, the Blounts were Roman Catholics. Edward Blount had married Annabella Guise, John's sister, and Rendcomb had been her childhood home. In his letter Pope refers to her childhood as he imagined it.

"I looked upon the mansion, walls and terraces; the plantations and slopes, which nature has made to command a variety of valleys and rising woods; with a veneration mixed with pleasure that represented her to me in those puerile amusements, which engaged her so many years ago in this place. I fancied I saw her sober over a sampler, or gay over a jointed baby [a doll]. I daresay she did one thing more even in those early years remembered her Creator in the days of her youth."

We know of only one letter directly from Pope to Annabella Blount. In 1726, he wrote to her as a widow politely requesting the return of his letters to her husband which were, indeed, published in 1735.

Recently, I saw in a bookseller's catalogue, and purchased, a manuscript cookery book which had the signature "Annabella Guise, her book, Anno Domini 1694". The bookseller had noted that on marriage she had become Mrs Blount. The book consists of some 150 pages and is bound in the original speckled calf. Mrs Blount lived her married life at Blagdon, in Devon: she had a large family, including four daughters, one of whom, Mary, married Edward Howard, who later became the 11th Duke of Norfolk.

Although, like most recusant families, the Blounts lived quietly in the country, they had a wide circle of friends and travelled both to London and abroad.

Annabella herself seems to have been known for her piety, but that did not stop her visiting the theatre when in London. At the end of her cookery book, she notes the cast list of a performance of *The Merry Wives Of Windsor*, which probably occurred at Drury Lane before 1703. Colley Cibber played Falstaff, heading an amazingly strong cast, which included both the Powells, Penekedman, Wilkes, Johnson, and the incomparable Susanna Mountfort, who was playing Mrs Ford.

The Blounts lived well, and Annabella was an excellent housewife. She seems to have added recipes to her cookery book throughout her life. Her brother, who became Sir John and fought as one of George II's generals in the Highlands against Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745, shared her interest in food. He was celebrated both for bravery and for romantic exaggeration.

Horace Walpole later wrote to Sir Horace Mann: "When your relative General Guise was marching up to Cartagena, and the pelicans were wheeling about him, he said: 'What would Chloe [the Duke of Newcastle's French cook] give for some of those to make a pelican pie?'"

When visiting his sister, Sir John may have tasted her lobster pie. This is the recipe: "Take all the good of a lobster and break it into little pieces, strew a little pepper and salt on them,

season them with beaten mace, take oysters and shrimps, make a pie of good paste, lay butter in the bottom, then lobster, then oysters and shrimps, and so till all is laid in the pie, and more butter a top. When it is baked, take the liquor of the oysters and white wine, put it in the pie, and serve it up."

The Blounts were certainly sociable people. Nowadays, the hosts of drink parties serve little snacks with the white wine or the cocktails. Mrs Blount had more than one recipe for

Mrs Blount's contains medicines as well as recipes. One of her less convincing medicines was "Snailwater, an approved water good for the jaundice and colic and stomach, especially for the consumption. Take a peck of garden snails ..."

Sir Rowland Bellasis gave her another remedy for consumption, which includes resin, bees wax, and turpentine, and sounds suspiciously like furniture polish.

Mr Parsons advised her to cure smallpox by laying gold leaf on the scabs, which must surely have been ineffective as well as expensive. In January, 1709, she herself cured her daughter, Harriet, of a "snuffie in the head" by binding a mixture of brandy and candle wax on her feet. It cannot have done the little girl any harm.

When she first started the book in 1693, Annabella made an index, and entered recipes for all sorts of cakes, most of which sound delicious, for creams, conserves, and syrups, for "chips and dried things", for cheeses, for jellies for marmalades, both orange and quince, for pies, for possets, for puddings, for veal, chicken, lamb, beef, calves head, tripe, and brown, for stews, for all sorts of fishes, for wines and brewing. She could preserve all kinds of fruit. She was not afraid of the rougher tasks: "To souce a pig. Take a pig and ruff it in the head, then ruff it down the backbone, and strow in a good deal of ginger ..." She pickled scallops,

such snacks. She gives this for "a fricassee of eggs": "Take 10 or 12 eggs, boiled hard and cut into slices; boil a glass of white wine with an anchovy; cut small, an onion, handful of chives; add either oyster mushrooms, asparagus, bits of artichoke bottom, or what you have. Little or no meat, a little pepper, and a good lump of butter: when it tastes savoury, put in a coffee dish of cream, then throw in the eggs, toss it up and serve it on sippets [small pieces of toast]."

Like many early cookery books,

walnuts, pigeons, mushrooms, cucumbers, peaches — "they must be gathered in midsummer moon" — French beans, quinces, barberries, oysters, and "an old fat goose".

Annabella Blount made her cookery book a record of her friendships. Mrs Palmer gave her a recipe for lemon syllabub, Tom Chudleigh, a Devon neighbour, who was James II's Ambassador to Holland and turned Catholic, gave her one for potato pie. Mrs Arnold was very good at puff pastry; a French friend, "Mademoiselle Lafitte", gave a recipe for a French cake. "Take a pound of fresh butter, a pound of fine flour, a pound of fine sugar, 18 eggs, six whites, beat all this together for two hours, then add the juice of an orange and a glass of sack; when it is beat enough, put in a pound-and-a-half of almonds, much beaten, and as much citron or orange peel as you please or both." Mrs Blount noted: "Probatum est", which was her mark of approval.

Alexander Pope as her husband's friend in youth, a brother who became a brave general, a childhood in Gloucestershire, married life in Devon, seeing Cibber as Falstaff and Susanna Mountfort as Mrs Ford, and all these things make an exceptionally good life.

Yet it is her quality of care which is most touching, shown in the medicines which could not remedy then incurable diseases, in Sir Robert Southwell's 18 paragraphs on home brewing, which she carefully copied down, in the recipes, and all the business of an 18th-century Devon household which could not go to the supermarket. I am left full of admiration for Annabella Blount's life.

# Who will be put to the sword?

Gordon Brown's spending review is certain to offend someone, says Peter Riddell

The success or failure of the Blair Government will be determined above all by its decisions on public spending. The core of the "new" Labour strategy was the promise that public services can be improved without a big increase in overall spending, and hence taxes on ordinary people. When I talked to Gordon Brown for his interview in *The Times* last week, he said a top priority for the autumn will be the comprehensive spending review which has just begun in Whitehall under the direction of Alastair Darling, the Chief Secretary.

This is not some arcane Whitehall exercise, but goes to the heart of what Government does and what we all pay for. If the review succeeds, taxes should be lower than otherwise. I am surprised more attention has not been paid to the terms of reference because they reveal how broad, and deep, the rethink is supposed to be.

Ministers will re-examine whether programmes fulfil Government aims: the scope for improving efficiency and how far objectives could be achieved "by instruments other than public spending". The review is looking at the sale of surplus public assets and cross-departmental problems like criminal justice, local government finance, the countryside and rural policy, and housing.

The sceptics — and there are many, both in Whitehall and among Tory former ministers — argue that we have been here before many times.

Ministers have been talking about "rigorous zero-based reviews" since the days of Sir Edward Heath's "quiet revolution" in the early 1970s.

In the Thatcher and Major years, the Tories conducted similar exercises —

most recently the rolling programme of fundamental reviews. These had only limited success, because of departmental resistance, apart from social security where Peter Lilley's decisions on revamping benefits will have a sizeable cumulative impact.

However, it is wrong to be too sceptical. Public spending may have remained above 40 per cent of national income, but the underlying trend has been downwards. Despite pre-election relaxations, the peak share of spending in each recession has been lower than in the previous one. That is only because of an unrelenting battle by successive Tory Chancellors.

There are two main pitfalls in comprehensive reviews. First, options leak, usually about the most headline-catching cuts. The classic example was what Nigel Lawson

described in his *The View from Number 11* as a "Cabinet riot" in autumn 1982 over a Central Policy Review Staff (think-tank) study on various spending options: education vouchers, replacement of parts of the NHS by compulsory private health insurance and cancellation of Trident. The resulting furore forced even Margaret Thatcher at the height of her post-Falklands power to rule out any of these options. When he became Chancellor, Lord Lawson, pursued a more piecemeal, less confrontational and more successful approach to controlling spending, and reducing its share of national income. There has already been one squall in the current review, over charges in the NHS, with ministers

being forced to say that nothing has been ruled out — and they are certain to be more such rows over the next year.

The second, and related, problem is one of timing. The time horizon of politicians is shorter than of spending programmes. Ministers seldom look beyond the next election, but it is often hard to achieve significant savings in merely two or three years. One of the Tories' big achievements was to take decisions, notably on changing the method of uprating, scaling back the state earnings-related pension and equalising the retirement age, where the benefits build up over time.

The same dilemma is faced now. In the short term, Labour is trying to resolve the conflict between its acceptance of inherited Tory spending limits and the strong pressure for

higher health and education budgets by diverting money from the National Lottery and drawing on the contingency reserve.

Mr Brown is naturally eager to find tangible savings before the next election. But there is no short-term scope on pensions, while the Welfare to Work programme costs money in the short term. This leaves housing and incapacity benefit, and Mr Brown made a point in his interview with *The Times* of stressing the need to focus on the £1 billion in housing benefit fraud, out of a total cost of £11 billion. But there are no easy savings, given the need to provide incentives for new investment in social housing. By contrast, proposals for switching to a more contributory system made by Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, in his backbench days will not produce short-term savings.

The review is likely to examine the scope for raising more money from the private sector, as shown by the existing efforts to strengthen the private finance initiative. The most far-reaching change has been David Blunkett's proposal that students in higher education should pay part of their tuition fees through loans repayable out of their later earnings.

There are also unresolved questions over defence. When the strategic defence review was announced, George Robertson stressed it was not Treasury driven, but Mr Brown says defence is part of the comprehensive spending review. The search is now on for big savings in procurement, possibly of as much as £900 million. Expect a big argument on whether any money stays within the Ministry of Defence or is clawed back by Treasury.

Mr Brown has shown that he is willing, even eager, to take bold decisions. Some of his colleagues have so far been more reticent. But they will shortly have to risk offending Labour supporting interest groups. Mr Brown believes the review is a once-and-for-all opportunity for the Government to reshape spending programmes and priorities.

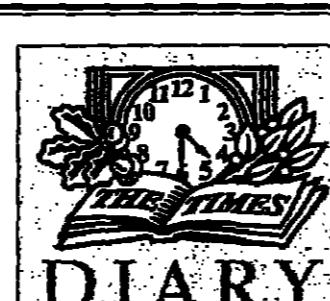
The alternative is higher taxes. If the Government does not get decisions right now, there will be no second chance.

# Royal court

THERE can be no further doubt of the burgeoning relationship between Peter Mandelson, Minister with Royal Connections, the Prince of Wales and his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles. In one week, the Labour Government has moved not only to retain the Royal Yacht Britannia but also to quash the anti-hunting Bill on the grounds that the Government is too busy.

Last week, No 10 moved to reject the story that Mandelson had held

clandestine meetings with Mrs Parker Bowles. They said that the pair had met only briefly at a drinks party. Keen Mandelson-watchers, however, insist that the denial was a mere formality. Derek Draper, Mandelson's former assistant, who put the story round, would never have done so without consent from or high. It had to be formally denied and yet was a useful story to have in the public sphere to prove



that new Labour was not all about modish architects and pop music.

Labour's decision to sit on the anti-hunting Bill had as much to do with the opposition of the Prince of Wales as of those new Labour supporters, led by John Mortimer's wife Penny, who ride to hounds. The Prince is reported to have bitten his pro-hunting tongue before the election at the instigation of Mrs Parker Bowles. His reward was the quashing of the Bill. "Isn't it good that this Government listens," Mrs Parker Bowles is reported to have said this week.

The retention of the yacht will have been of great interest to the Prince. He grew so nostalgic about it on his recent trips abroad that he cried at the thought of losing it.

• No problem with Christmas presents for young Catholics this

Christmas, as Cardinal Basil Hume brings out his latest work. Basil in Blunderland is based on a game which Hume used to play years ago with young children. It is a collection of thoughts on the spiritual life and reflects Hume's view that "now it is a fact that my spiritual life is more a wandering in Blunderland than a resting and relaxing in Wonderland".

## Gazumped

RESENTMENT is bubbling against Tony and Cherie Blair at one of north London's estate agents. Four years ago, Holden and Matthews found the Blairs their five-bedroom Victorian terrace house in Islington, and were expecting to sell it for them when they moved into No 10. They even had potential viewers lined up for the property.

David Ruddock, an estate agent with the firm, says that Mrs Blair had been "sweetness and light". Then, quite suddenly, the lines of communication went dead. News of the house's sale had appeared in the newspapers.

"They didn't return our phone calls or our letters," says Ruddock, who had dreamt of a £14,000 commission. "Only two people here knew about it and nobody said a

word. The leak must have come from Downing Street."

The Blairs moved the handling of

their affairs to Berkeley International, who sold the house for about £700,000 to a French couple who had first made inquiries at Holden and Matthews, leaving Ruddock twang his braces in frustration.

• Those police and lawyers under investigation in the Stephen Lawrence murder case will be intrigued

by the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev John Sentamu, has been called to assist in the inquiry. Before coming to England in 1974,

he was a law official in Uganda under Idi Amin. His career ended after he sent innocent men to jail reasoning that they would be safer behind bars. This did little to enhance his popularity.

"I got out of Uganda in 1974," he says. "If I had not, I would have been dead meat."

## Charity case

FREEBIES continue to flow for the debt-ridden Princess Michael of Kent. She will soon be tucked in at the expense of the children's charity, Sparks. The Princess has been invited by the charity to attend a ball at the London Hilton in Park Lane, where there will be a champagne reception and four-course dinner followed by a live cabaret show. While the 700 other guests pay £95 each for their tickets, the Princess will eat for free. She is a guest of honour," says Kensington Palace. "Guests of honour do not pay."

## Car wars

REVOLUTIONARY fervour grips Windsor. Leading members of the Liberal Democrat-dominated council are bickering the authorities at the castle to build an under-

ground car park in its grounds to alleviate the crush of tourists. The castle has pulled up its drawbridge with a snort. The part of Robespierre is being played by Brian Ridge, chairman of the Windsor and Maidenhead Highway Panel. "It's all take, take, take up there at the castle," says Ridge.

The Long Walk, a three-mile, tree-lined drive leading up to the castle, is his preferred site for the car park. "All those lovely chateaux in France have got them," says Cleyton Ridge, "so why can't we have one?"

P.H.S.

Camilla Parker Bowles and Mandelson, her Westminster connection



مكتبة من الأصل



## SHIPAHOY

### Britannia should be saved but not exploited

With his customary sense of timing, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio but free to roam the seven seas, has used Cowes week to indicate that the Royal Yacht *Britannia* will not after all be sent to Davy Jones' locker. Instead, he implied, that after a £50 million gift — paid for by the private sector — the grand old lady of the sea will enjoy another outing. The Royal Family would undertake a "timeshare arrangement" at times when the ship was thought essential for official duties. Otherwise, she would be utilised for commercial purposes.

At the beginning of the year the yacht had entered the waters of intense political controversy. The Government, long at sea in the polls, had decided that *Britannia* might be its salvation. There followed an extraordinary disagreement between the two main parties over the best solution. The Tories at the behest of John Major openly sought confirmed nationalisation: they asserted that the whole £50 million cost should be met from public sources. The Labour Party, on the other hand, favoured retaining the vessel but seeking an exclusively private funded prospectus. Tony Blair and many others on his front bench derided the Conservatives for lavishing taxpayer's money on *Britannia* in their election material. The British electorate, watching all this, can hardly be blamed for any subsequent confusion.

While the charges were exchanged *The Times* argued for common waters. We thought that in diplomatic and economic terms *Britannia* had justified the case for many more years in service. The benefit of £500 million often claimed for the ship might well have overstated its direct value. Nonetheless, it seemed to us that the yacht created a climate conducive to the completion of contracts. We would have had no qualms if an entirely new ship had emerged while the original became a floating mu-

seum. We thought that a private-public partnership was perfectly practicable.

That now seems to be the core of the Government's thinking. Although full details are not yet available the deployment of the Private Finance Initiative for these ends would appear an appropriately imaginative end to a less than attractive process of political deliberation. A private consortium would make the initial investment and the public would pay for those occasions when the ship was used for specific national requirements. The Conservative Party also seems satisfied with the new proposal. This will restore a much needed partisan truce which at one stage threatened to involve the monarchy in political warfare.

The option of outright replacement should not be lightly dismissed as the difference in cost would be relatively modest compared with the prospective refit. However, there is a worthy argument that the history of the original craft holds a special attraction. We would not, after all, rebuild Windsor Castle or Buckingham Palace with plain glass replacements. We must also ensure that the character of *Britannia* is in keeping with its new corporate mandate. The sacrifice of dignity for a third-rate theme park would eventually undermine the entire operation.

If these concerns can be satisfied then the present proposal should be explored with full vigour. The ideal result has always been that the Royal Yacht becomes a national ship and undertakes both private and public functions. The Government has tacked to place it where Mr Mandelson intends to weigh anchor. The spectacular role that this vessel played in the last hours of British sovereignty in Hong Kong should have convinced even the sceptics of its value. Britain no longer rules the waves but *Britannia*, suitably modernised, will win the hearts of businessmen, royals and romantics.

## TAKING ON TERROR

### Arafat's ambivalence has prompted Israel's actions

Israel has reason to suspect that the blast which left 13 dead in Jerusalem last week will not be the final act of brutality. The country fears a repeat of events nearly 18 months ago when four attacks in nine days left 57 dead and hundreds injured. The suicide bomber is perhaps the most deadly weapon in the Middle East arsenal. Detection is extraordinarily difficult and an assault, if successfully planned, is invariably executed. The sole chance of interception lies in infiltration of the groups that carry out this horrific sacrifice. For that reason Yossi Netanyahu has ordered the arrest of over one hundred people known to sympathise with the Hamas movement.

In these circumstances the actions of the Israeli leader are entirely understandable. An unduly heavy-handed approach towards those detained would have important costs and consequences. But his pursuit of public safety is obviously legitimate. We would expect no less if these outrages were repeated in this country. Yossi Arafat, and others associated with his administration, have condemned the clampdown as "collective punishment". Mr Arafat's description of the recent arrests as a declaration of war on the Palestinian people seems unlikely to discourage future Hamas atrocities.

If Mr Arafat finds Israel's actions an embarrassment then it is largely one of his own making. The attitude of the Palestinian Authority to terrorists in its territory has often been ambiguous to the point of ambivalence. Hamas activists have remained at liberty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or have swiftly escaped if captured. The Palestinian police responsible for removing such threats contains individuals at very senior levels who are suspected of fermenting

insurrection. It is not surprising that Mr Netanyahu would prefer to take direct responsibility for his citizens' security.

This same approach applies to the Palestinian leader. The Prime Minister claims that Mr Arafat has done "damn all" to eradicate terrorism. That is an overstatement but one that indicates Israel's despair. While Mr Arafat is willing to condemn individual incidents he chooses to blame others for the atmosphere in which the bombings happened. He has refused to place himself or the Palestinian Authority squarely against the extremists. Instead he has publicly argued that Hamas — including its military wing — is a "patriotic movement".

That attitude will harm Israel and Palestinians alike. The peace process is the sole means by which long-suffering ordinary Palestinians have any chance of advancing their lot. Whether that happens is not in the gift of Mr Arafat or Hamas but will come from decisions made by the Israeli Government. Neither Mr Netanyahu nor any successor will make concessions in the wake of street explosions. If the process does not deliver permanent peace in tangible terms both parties it will not prosper.

If Mr Arafat is prepared to take the political risk he could make Mr Netanyahu's current campaign redundant. He could make it clear that dialogue was the sole means by which the Palestinian Authority intended to advance its case. Such a stance would achieve more than a relaxation of short-term tension. Israel seeks peace and will make further concessions if it is assured of its security. Mr Arafat has so far managed to retain a relationship with both Hamas and the Israeli Cabinet. The time has come for him to make a choice between them.

## VICTORIANS VALUED

### An age of achievement is marked this month

Two Queens have stamped their names on eras in a manner that no male monarch has matched. Despite the efforts of some in the educational establishment, most children still recognise the reigns of Elizabeth I and Victoria. One hundred years ago Britain celebrated — with an unexpected enthusiasm — Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The 1890s were the point at which the Victorians first thought of themselves in that context and tried to assess their own impact.

Despite the images of the stark workhouse and cheap child labour in northern factories, Victorian Britain inspired much for which we should still be grateful. The monarch's long tenure symbolised one of the most distinctive features of Britain during this tumultuous period. What might rightly have been feared as radical political change was smoothly turned into consensual transition. While most European states slid into increasingly intense internal strife — and even the United States endured Civil War — this country enjoyed domestic tranquillity.

The same period is indelibly linked with prosperity and progress. Victorian Britain witnessed the peaks of Britain's industrial might — assisted by the adoption of free trade in the 1840s — but also the beginnings of the decline with which we are familiar. Britain was without much doubt the workhorse of the world in the 1850s. The Industrial Revolution may have taken place under earlier monarchs but its full fruition only became clear under Victoria.

If industry was one important part of the

Victorian experience, empire was surely the other. The pursuit of political power across the planet was controversial at the time — opposed by the nonconformist section of the Liberal Party — and has been considered with diminishing sympathy ever since. Yet it says much about the Victorians that they were not only confident with the emerging industrial world of their own but also insisted on exporting their ideas through trade and empire, worldwide.

Britain has since been shaped by both these forces. An astonishing proportion of the social habits, activities, pastimes and conventions of the country we know now were shaped during these decades. The Victorians were — among their other attributes — organisers and that has been apparent in what they left us. Whether we can match their sense of innovation and experimentation remains another matter.

Over the next few weeks *The Times* will outline and explore several features of the Victorian phenomena. The scope will range across the spheres — economic, political, literary and social. It will encompass cotton mills and cultural movements, crime as well as the constitution, religion alongside railways. Our purpose in this enterprise will be not merely to look back but also to appreciate our own heritage. The Victorian effect is above all else one of discovery. In the course of August we hope to capture the spirit that the Victorians themselves knew so well: the one that took them from the Great Exhibition to the greatest empire.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Britain's need for business

From Mr Piers Ashworth, QC

Sir, Your leading article of July 28, "A plague on their houses", rightly sheds doubt both on the Scottish system of binding agreements and an alternative deposit scheme as a means to put an end to gazumping in the property market.

In our view the Government's proposed overhaul will have no effect on the cost to house buyers. Indeed, the Scottish system might actually increase it, since, because an offer is binding if accepted, a purchaser must incur survey and legal fees before making an offer. If the offer is not accepted, the Scottish buyer will look for other properties, paying yet more survey and legal fees.

One can always dream up potential conflicts of interest. Many of us face real conflicts in our daily lives. Of course Lord Simon of Highbury (letters, August 2) should not be put in the invidious position of having to make decisions directly impacting upon his personal interests (such as the award of contracts). But the interests of "business" (be it the oil industry or any other) are often the interests of the country: who better to advance the national interest than a person skilled in that business?

Why should businessmen who are prepared to give their services to the national interest be penalised by requiring them to divest themselves of their shares — often their major assets? Scandals arise when these are obtained or held secretly — not when all is open. Indeed there is much to be said for shares being held directly and not through trusts, particularly "blind" ones.

The question should be not whether a minister might conceivably be faced with a possible conflict of interest but whether he has the skills and experience to fulfil the duties of his office to the benefit of the nation. I have never (to my knowledge) met Lord Simon; but can there be any doubt as to the answer to that question?

Doubtless this Government will make mistakes, and the Opposition must be vigilant. But this campaign smacks of juvenile electioneering, of which the public is sick and tired. We must encourage "businessmen" in Parliament — not put fatuous obstacles in their way.

Yours faithfully,  
PIERS ASHWORTH,  
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4.  
August 2.

From Mr Tom Rees Jones

Sir, When the water industry was privatised I was invited to become a member of the local Ofwat consultative committee. I was pleased and a little flattered to be asked, and I accepted the offer. The position was unpaid and took up a fair amount of time. There were no perquisites and the lunches were not up to much either.

I was informed by the director of Ofwat that not only should I be very cautious about my political affiliation but that I should immediately sell my very small holding of shares in Severn Trent plc. I readily agreed to both conditions.

Lord Simon has accepted political office and has a very large holding indeed in British Petroleum. In the interest of fairness, should he not give up either one or the other?

Yours faithfully,  
TOM REES JONES,  
18 Derwent Street, Draycott, Derby.  
August 2.

### Lottery cash in London

From the Chairman of the London Arts Board

Sir, The *Cultural Trends* report from the Policy Studies Institute (details, July 25) suggests that, by giving 45 per cent of its money to London projects, the Arts Council is being unfair to people in the regions. This view is potentially damaging, not only for London but for the nation as a whole.

London, like all great capitals, is the home of most of our national cultural institutions and many important smaller companies. It is the base for over 40 per cent of the country's artists and performers and for many of the related industries, earning millions of pounds in exports. The range and quality of artistic enterprise attracts artists of international standing and many visitors to London, and to the rest of Britain, from all over the world.

The report also comments on the inequitable distribution of National Lottery arts funds. This money is helping to rebuild many of London's ageing arts buildings. And so it should. The figures quoted in the Policy Studies Institute report, however, reflect an atypical period, the first year of the lottery funding when a handful of national companies received large grants. The reality is that London has some of the poorest areas in the country and for many Londoners the lottery has so far done little to meet their cultural and social needs.

London is an outstanding creative capital. This is a cause for celebration, needing confident policies and enlightened investment. Cultural development at a time of financial restraint requires sharper tools than the crude notion of a "fair share". Of course significant arts ventures should be encouraged and supported throughout the country, but if these are at the expense of London then everyone will lose in the long run.

Yours sincerely,  
TREVOR PHILLIPS, Chairman,  
London Arts Board,  
Elm House, 133 Long Acre, WC2.  
July 31.

### Search for an answer to gazumping

From Mr J. P. O'Brien

Sir, Your leading article of July 28, "A plague on their houses", rightly sheds doubt both on the Scottish system of binding agreements and an alternative deposit scheme as a means to put an end to gazumping in the property market.

example would be as follows:

Our professional fees	£300
VAT on above	£52.50
Stamp duty	£1,300
Land Registry fee	£250
Local authority search	£125
Surveyors' fees	£125-£500 + VAT

The majority of these costs are paid to government bodies rather than solicitors and any overhaul of the system should take account of that fact.

Yours faithfully,  
P. G. BROOKS,  
Beavans (solicitors),  
155 Whiteladies Road,  
Clifton, Bristol.  
July 28.

From Mr Julian R. Gore

Sir, Buying or selling your home is not like buying a jar of instant coffee. What you get is not always what you see. The system in England and Wales works well for the very reason that it gives both parties time to reflect and to commit irrevocably to the transaction only when each of them is absolutely sure.

Equally, a deposit scheme that is voluntary will not attract the agents or individuals who are likely to consider gazumping, and it will offer the legal profession even more scope to argue over whether or not claims can be made against individual deposits.

There is a simple, commercial and effective answer. The number of gazumps is still a small percentage of the total number of purchases and if a substantial number take out a cheap insurance at far less cost than the proposed deposit, the relatively few who are victims can be immediately compensated with their lost legal and survey fees.

This will not compensate for disappointment, but it will allow a frustrated buyer to get on with another purchase immediately, without breaking the fragile and impatient chain which is an essential part of most purchases.

Yours sincerely,  
J. P. O'BRIEN,  
Ross-Gower Ltd (solicitors),  
Portsmouth House,  
155-157 Minories, EC3.  
July 28.

From Mr Peter Brooks

Sir, Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, who is to review the procedures for buying and selling homes, states that she will be looking at "the frustrations and stresses facing people making probably the biggest purchase they will ever make in their lives" (report, July 28). Presumably she will also be looking at the Government's own contribution to these frustrations and stresses.

We regularly act for clients purchasing property in London and estimate that the main purchase costs of a £150,000 house in Wandsworth (or

top of living costs that are high in relation to those in Pakistan. Many feel that some system of reporting is not much to expect for an outlay for nutrition often in excess of £8,000 a year.

Britain has an outstanding reputation for providing high-quality education to students from all parts of the world. However, increasingly students are finding other countries can provide a similar quality at a lower cost. We must seek to continue the tradition of providing something of true excellence.

We are particularly concerned about planned further reductions in the unit of funding for higher education. If these are carried forward, it will have halved in 25 years. We believe that this would damage both the quality and effectiveness of higher education.

It is clear from the report that the crisis is a financial one which has been caused by years of underfunding expansion. The universities are still a national asset and continue to deliver quality education in spite of government neglect.

The Dearing committee is clearly proud of what the universities have achieved, and wishes to maintain quality. Perhaps, on reflection, you might share this view?

Yours sincerely,  
P. K. BURGESS,  
President,  
Association of University Teachers,  
United House,  
9 Pembridge Road, W11.

From the Principal of Edwardes College, Peshawar

Sir, I strongly approve of the sentiments expressed by the principal of Concord College, Shrewsbury (letter, July 25; further letters, July 29), who suggests that now that UK students will be required to pay tuition fees they have every right to expect regular progress reports from their teachers.

Each year this college sends a number of bright students to British universities. They pay full-cost fees on

St Edmundsbury tower

From Mr David Cockram

Sir, Marcus Binney's report (July 26) unveiled a design for the tower of St Edmundsbury Cathedral by Hugh Mathew. The design had not been commissioned by or indeed presented to the Cathedral Council.

Mr Mathew's design is a confident and striking reworking of late medieval ideas — but from the illustration it appears to me to be a remodelling of a tower design rejected by the Millennium Commission a year ago. That

design incorporated a *flèche* (spire) — much more popular locally — which Mr Mathew has replaced with a parapet and pinnacles.

Following wide consultation nationally and locally, the Cathedral Council is now working on plans for a less flamboyant tower, sketched by the late Stephen Dykes Bower in 1988 when cathedral architect.

This, it is hoped, will include a viewing gallery and disabled access.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID COCKRAM  
(Chairman of the Fabric Advisory Committee),  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral,  
Angel Hill,  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.  
July 31.

### Lewis, Hoffmann and the wardrobe

From Mr David Hunt

Sir, May I submit that a more intriguing aspect of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* than the womb symbolism suggested in your Diary (July 28) is that C. S. Lewis evidently plagiarised the basic idea from one of the tales of Hoffmann.

In both the Narnia chronicles and *E*

## SOCIAL NEWS

### Commonwealth Heads of Government

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will open the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Edinburgh on October 24.

### Today's royal engagement

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at Trinity House, Lighthouse Service Engineering Directorate, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, at 4.15.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrates her 97th birthday today.

### Birthdays today

Mr James Arbuthnot, MP, 45; Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Bayly, 83; Mr David Bedford, composer, 60; Mr William Cooper, novelist, 87; Dr Jack Cunningham, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 58; Sir Rustam Feroze, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 77; Professor H.L. Freeman, psychiatrist, 68; Mr E.P. Gallagher, chief executive, Environment Agency, 53; Sir George Godber, former chairman, Health Education Council, 89; Professor P.N. Goodfellow, RFS, geneticist, 46; Miss Georgina Hale, actress, 51; Mr Donald L. Haxby, former member, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 69; Professor Sir David Hull, Professor of Child Health, 65; Mr Martin Jarvis, actor, 56; Mrs Rachel Jones, former chairman, Broadcasting Council for Wales, 89; Mr David Lange, CH, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 55; Professor Howard Morris, FRS, biological chemist, 51; Mr Ian Newton, former Head, Bedales School, 51; Mr Simon Preston, organist, 59; Mr John Spalding, former chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 73; Mr Peter Squires, rugby player, 46; Sir Michael Weston, diplomat, 60.

### Basketmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Basketmakers' Company for the ensuing year:

Prince Warden, Mr D.W. Imrie-Brown; Upper Warden, Mr P.J. Costain; Under Warden, Mr G.A.C. Fulman, Deputy.

### SPANA

By permission of Earl and Countess Bathurst, a charity luncheon was given by the Chairman of The Cirencester Driving Trials, Captain Francis Burne in Cirencester Park on Sunday, August 3, in aid of SPANA. The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

The people were assisted at their teaching, for unlike the scribblers, he taught with a note of authority. Mark 2: 22

### BIRTHS

ANNEWS - On July 26th, to Roselle (née Falp) and Michael Langhorne, Victoria and the Americas.

BRADFORD - On 31st July 1997 - At the Liverpool Women's Hospital, Mrs Elizabeth and North, a son, Matthew James.

ELLY - On July 26th, to Sara (née Cuthbert) and Rupert, a son, Cuthbert.

PACE - On 29th July 1997, to Jenny and Valerio, a beautiful daughter, Elena Valeria.

SCHOOLFIELD - On 31st July 1997 - At the Vicarage (née Bedford) and Simon, a daughter, Olivia Rose, a sister for Jessica.

WALSH - On 29th July 1997, to Steve and Louise (née Boulton), a daughter, a daughter for Thomas.

STANFORD - On 31st July 1997 - At the Vicarage (née Bedford) and Simon, a daughter, Olivia Rose, a sister for Jessica.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

COATES-KNIGHT - On 4th August 1947 at St George's Cathedral, Windsor, Captain John Coates-Knight, Janitorial, Feathers, younger son of Wing Commander and Mrs Coates-Knight, a son, Steven, to Miss Anne Knight, younger daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Lumsden of Chelmsford, and Mrs Linda Knight, a daughter of Captain and Mrs Lumsden, who blessed with 4 married sons and 9 grandchildren. Deo Gratias.

### DEATHS

LEEDS - On July 31st, peacefully at home, Mrs Lee PRIMA, aged 69, resplendent in a life-size horse with great courage and dignity. Beloved mother of Diane, father of Matthew, and the much adored grandfather of Kirsty, Clark, and Claudia.

MURK - Alec Andrew, C.B.E., former Member of Parliament for Darwen, died on July 31st, aged 87. Former Chief Constable of Darwen, he was born in Park (deceased). Family from the Manchester area.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - On July 31st, at the Vicarage (née Bedford) and Simon, a daughter, Olivia Rose, a sister for Jessica.

WILSON - On 30th July 1997, after a short illness Ian Robert Wilson, beloved son of the late Mr and Mrs Wilson, and beloved father of Jane. Service of thanksgiving at St. Trinity Church, Cowes, Isle of Wight, on Tuesday 12th August at 12 noon. Donations if wished to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Cowes.

GRANT - Guy, a lifelong and dedicated resident of the Midland Empire, at St Joseph's Hospital, Blackpool, on 31st July, 82.

# Art show honours war horses

By JOHN SHAW

A CELEBRATED group of pictures by Sir Alfred Munnings has gone on show in London for the first time since 1919.

The 29 studies commemorate the Canadian contribution to the First World War, and Munnings believed the pictures to be among his best work. They have been lent by the Canadian War Museum for an exhibition at Phillips in Bond Street.

The paintings were commissioned by Lord Beaverbrook, the Canadian politician and proprietor of the *Daily Express*. He wanted to mark his country's involvement in the war and particularly the role of mounted battalions such as the Cavalry Brigade and the Forestry Corps. Munnings was dispatched to Bologne.

The brigade went into action in the trenches in 1915 and also undertook a mounted role. Lieutenant G.M. Flowerdew won the Victoria Cross for leading a cavalry charge in March 1918. The Forestry Corps ensured that the British and French armies had sufficient supplies of timber and cleared more than 100 airfield sites.

□ **Military Munnings 1917-1918** is open until August 27. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm; admission free; catalogue £10, part of which goes to the charity Riding for the Disabled.



Camp at Malbuisson near Pontarlier by Munnings, from a series commissioned by Lord Beaverbrook

## Moscow uncovers jewels of imperial past

By NORMAN HAMMOND  
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

CITIZENS of Moscow are racing rapidly about their city's past as archaeologists race bulldozers to uncover its remains.

Among the noted discoveries have been the Resurrec-

tion Bridge, which linked Red Square to the Belgorod or White City to the north, and evidence for settlement before the official founding of Moscow in 1147. The largest dig has been in Manege Square, just outside the walls of the Kremlin, where a four-storey underground shopping mall has

been built. Seven periods of construction spanning nearly 900 years were uncovered, the earliest dating from 1100. Among the objects uncovered were glass and metal bracelets, rock crystal and amber beads, and amphorae from the Black Sea.

More than 600 graves from the 17th-century Moscovite

Convent were excavated, many of the skeletons wrapped in well-preserved silk vestments embroidered with gold and silver thread. The dwellings and weapons of a Streltzy regiment were found. The Streltzy were Russia's first standing army, set up by Ivan the Terrible, but up to the time of Peter the Great a

source of potential rebellion, immortalised in Moussorgsky's opera *Kovchegchik*.

Near the Arbat, now a tourist haunt, a recently discovered finds include part of a sword-stick like that used by Ivan to kill his son.

□ Source: *Archaeology* 59 No. 426-38

### Anniversaries

#### BIRTHS

John Tradescant, gardener, Meopham, Kent, 1608; Edward Irving, founder of the Catholic Apostolic Church, Dumfries, 1792; Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet, Field Place, Horsham, Sussex, 1792; Walter Pater, critic, Shadwell, London, 1839.

W.H. Hudson, writer and naturalist, near Buenos Aires, 1841; Knut Hamsun, novelist and poet, Nobel laureate 1920, Larvik, Norway, 1859; Sir Harry Lauder, music hall entertainer, Edinburgh, 1870; Sir Osbert Lancaster, writer, London, 1908.

DEATHS

Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, killed at the Battle of Evesham, 1265; William Cecil, 1st Baron Burghley, statesman, London, 1598.

John Bacon, sculptor, London, 1799; William Aytoun, poet, Elgin, 1865; Hans

Christian Andersen, storyteller, Copenhagen, 1875; Captain Noel Chavasse, VC and Bar, the only person to win two VCs during the First World War, Brandreth, Ypres, 1917; Baron Auer von Welsbach, chemist and physicist, Treibach, Austria, 1929.

Rodney (Gypsy) Smith, evangelist, on board the *Queen Mary* en route for Florida, 1947; Roy Thomson, 1st Baron Thomson of Fleet, newspaper proprietor, 1976.

The Red Cross Society was founded in Britain, 1870.

Britain declared war on Germany, 1914.

Britain's first supersonic fighter plane, the PI English Electric Lightning, made its maiden flight from Boscombe Down, 1954.

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EDEN CHP 3/5 Beautiful villa, adjacent to 17th hole/18th tee, 4 double and 1 single bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 24/7 security, £2,450 a week. Tel: 0171 824 5047.

BIRTHDAYS

NAVARA: Emma, actress. Happy birthday to our beautiful daughter, lots of love and good health.

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WHIMBRELS are arriving on muddy stretches of coast as they make their way south. They are like small curlews, and are best distinguished by their rapid,ittering call, quite unlike the curlew's luty notes.

Curlew sandpipers, which are much smaller birds but have a down-curved bill like a curlew's, are sometimes found feeding round the whimbrels' feet at the water's edge. Young herring gulls are wandering along the coast: they are brown birds, and will take several years to acquire the white and grey adult plumage. Inland, starlings are starting to flock and roost together, often flying long distances at sunset.

Fat hen, or white goosefoot,

is growing tall at the edge of fields. It has meaty-looking flowers and leaves, and was once cooked like spinach. It often grows alongside mugwort, which has leaves

with a white underside, and woolly orange flowerheads. The black and orange-striped caterpillars of the cinnabar moth are feeding on ragwort, and often strip the plant bare.

Badgers are out at night

digging up wasps' nests,

which are full of fat grubs.

A new generation of peacock butterflies has emerged: their

velvety, reddish-brown wings

and blue and white eye spots

have a brilliant freshness.

DJM

### Nature notes

PHOTONICS are arriving on muddy stretches of coast as they make their way south.

They are like small curlews, and are best distinguished by their rapid,ittering call, quite unlike the curlew's luty notes.

Near the Arbat, now a tourist haunt, a recently

discovered finds include part of a sword-stick like that used by Ivan to kill his son.

□ Source: *Archaeology* 59 No. 426-38

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□ Source: *Archaeology* 59 No. 426-38

## OBITUARIES

## WILLIAM BURROUGHS

William S. Burroughs, author of *The Naked Lunch*, died on August 2 aged 83. He was born on February 5, 1914.

William Burroughs saw himself as a campaigner against destruction of the self by all the agents that he believed were conspiring to depersonalise it. His metaphor for this was junk addiction. By junk, the one-time drug-addict meant anything that put a person's life beyond his or her control. He saw the world in the despairing terms of addiction and fragmentation of the psyche, and his vision made him one of the most controversial writers of the second half of the century. Described as "the big daddy of the Beats", he influenced much of the "underground" of the 1950s which became the mainstream of the 1960s, from Norman Mailer and Anthony Burgess to Allen Ginsberg and R. D. Laing.

William Seward Burroughs was born in St Louis, Missouri, into the family of a famous industrialist. At Harvard during the New Deal years he studied poetry, ethnology and yoga, and gained a reputation for his wide-ranging knowledge. He travelled in Europe, studying medicine at Vienna University, and returned to Harvard to study postgraduate anthropology. He then rejected the bourgeois academic and scholarly life and entered the *demi-monde* that was to shape his life.

Rejected for the US Army, he went through a variety of jobs, including those of private detective, pest controller, bartender, factory and office worker, advertising and "the edge of crime". It was a good training for a writer of his social range and peculiar gifts of mimicry. He developed his first drug habit at this time, and its frightening effects became central to his life and work. His experiences of drugs, crime and the police were fully documented in his first book, *Junkie: Confessions of an Unredeemed Drug Addict* (1953), published under the pseudonym William Lee.

Addiction and withdrawal or cure were the central metaphors of his career. His concern with the analysis of power was based largely on his drug dependence and concomitant dependence on pushers, and on his antagonism to narcotics agents.

After some time in New Orleans and Texas, he made anthropological journeys to South America in search of alien cultures and new varieties of drugs. In the later 1950s he lived in Tangier, and after a crisis there in 1956 he underwent the amorphous cure under Dr John Yerbury in London. *The Naked Lunch* (1959), his most famous book, was written largely in Tangier afterwards. "I awoke from the Sickness at the age of forty-five," he wrote, "calm and sane, and in reasonably good health except for a weakened liver and the look of brawled flesh common to all who survive the Sickness."

*The Naked Lunch* — an aleatory, anarchic fantasy about addiction and homosexuality — was acclaimed by Norman Mailer and Robert Lowell, but its monotonous and nauseating violence, scatology and sadism ensured that it was banned in America until



1962. It did not appear in Britain until 1964, by which time the failure of the *Lady Chatterley* case had freed publishing from most taboos. Like other "underground" writers, such as Henry Miller and Samuel Beckett, Burroughs was published by Olympia Press in Paris. Grove Press in America and John Calder in Britain. But Burroughs was no Beckett. While Beckett became famous for his farcicalness about words, Burroughs used them casually, flippancy, and without compassion.

His ideas were shocking but shallow. "The whole system is completely wrong and heading for unimaginable disasters," he said. He claimed that there was a "necessity of deconditioning people from their whole past", and argued that "words are thought control". For a writer, who must begin with the inherited resources of language, this wholesale rejection was not promising.

His major theme was power as the manipulation of pleasure and pain in the human body. Around him he saw a systematic degradation in which

people willingly submitted to becoming hosts of the parasites of rule. His targets were gangsters, judges, doctors, psychiatrists, policemen and servicemen.Fake sacrifices and cures, phoney panaceas and causes were his satirical targets, and yet he believed that people volunteered for exploitation. His work may have been a warning against the nature of power, but he saw human beings as irrevocably addicted to victimisation by their overlords.

*The Naked Lunch* was followed by *The Soft Machine* (1961, final version 1968), *The Ticket That Exploded* (1962) and *Now! Express* (1964). Julian Symons's review of *The Soft Machine* summed up Burroughs's world: "The lovers bugger each other desperately, have nightmares in which they are violated by centipedes, and endure painful fantasies about the terminal erections of a hanged man. Out of the dirt, the excrement, the couplings, the repetitive confusion with which they are described, Burroughs makes a kind of dismal and disgusting urban poetry."

William Burroughs married Joan Vollmer in 1945, but in Mexico in 1951 he accidentally shot her, reportedly while playing William Tell. His son died in 1981.

## BAO DAI

Bao Dai, Vietnam's last Emperor, died in Paris on July 31 aged 83. He was born in Hué on October 22, 1913.

BAO DAI was a pleasure-seeker and a playboy who was also sometimes credited with being a Vietnamese patriot. But at the time of his death it was nearly 42 years since he had left his country, and his luxurious exile in France could hardly help being contrasted with the suffering, bloodshed and misery of his fellow citizens in the four decades that followed his being deposed in 1955.

The 13th and last monarch of the Nguyen dynasty, which reigned in Vietnam for four centuries, Bao Dai ruled as Vietnam's puppet sovereign for 20 years. He first abdicated in 1945 after the bold proclamation of the Republic of Vietnam by the future leader of North Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, who was attempting to forestall the return of the French colonialists after Japan's wartime occupation. In 1949, Bao Dai returned to Vietnam and declared the

country an anti-communist state under French colonial rule, with himself as head of state, though not using the style of Emperor.

Six years later, following the withdrawal of the French after Ho's victory at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, Bao Dai was finally deposed in a referendum organised by his own Prime Minister, the American-backed autocrat Ngo Dinh Diem, who himself was later murdered in a coup in which Washington acquiesced. (This was the coup in November 1963 that can be seen with the benefit of hindsight to have set off the chain of disasters for the Americans that finally led to the communist victory and the capture of Saigon — now Ho Chi Minh City — in 1975.)

A hirsute-faced, well-built but good-natured man, whose real name was Nguyen Vinh Thuy, Vietnam's last hereditary Emperor took the imperial title Bao Dai, meaning "Voice of Authority". He was born in the ancient imperial capital of Hué, but raised and educated in France from the age of nine.

He succeeded to the throne



when he was 13, after the death of his father, the Emperor Khai Dinh, but he did not take up the reins of government until he had completed his French education six years later. Returning to Vietnam, he declared: "I have decided to use all my power to make this country evolve, and to promote the path of progress and civilisation."

His lifestyle was a sharp contrast to that of the austere elderly Communist apparatchiks who rule Vietnam now. It was full of luxury and exotic

living. The young Emperor was a keen elephant-hunter in Vietnam's Central Highlands, the area that was later to be most heavily bombed by the Americans and sprayed with the defoliant Agent Orange.

Bao Dai was a rich man in his own right and, after smuggling most of his fortune out of his country, he was, in the early years of his exile, a very heavy, but extremely discreet, gambler on the French Riviera. He patronised the baccarat tables and his bids, which usually ranged between £300 and £500, were always placed by his secretary.

He sometimes played himself, too, but in order to maintain his relative anonymity this was only at off-peak hours, usually between 5 and 7pm. He had made his fortune during the earlier wars in Indo-China, thanks to the favourable and artificial rate of exchange between the Indo-Chinese piastre and the French franc.

The Emperor of Cannes". As he later became known, had a passion for motor-car and motorcycle racing. His five motorcycles were a legacy

of his racing days, and his stable of cars included a black Bentley, which he drove himself, an Alfa-Romeo, a Rolls-Royce and a Mercedes.

Though a weak man and averse to making decisions, he was not callous and his friends insisted that he suffered for his people despite — or perhaps because of — the luxury of his comfortable existence.

When fighting first erupted in Saigon at the time of the Tet offensive in 1968, Bao Dai chose not to venture out of his 20-room chateau near Cannes. This caused chagrin among local pleasure-seekers, but was meant to indicate the concern he felt for the fate of those in his distant and unhappy homeland.

In exile he converted from Buddhism to Roman Catholicism, but long after moving to France he cherished impossible dreams of a return to his throne. He was twice married. His first wife, the daughter of a Saigon mandarin whom he married in 1933, died in 1963. His second wife was French. He had two sons and four daughters from the first marriage.

Secondly, at great personal risk, he sent the British Government an account of the desperate circumstances in which the prisoners on the Burma-Thailand Railway found themselves in June 1943, when the monsoon had broken. His appeal for help was the first intimation the Allied governments had of the conditions in which the prisoners were held; in disbelief, the Dutch government-in-exile asked for assurance that the information was genuine.

The men of Pavillard's battalion in Thailand were of mixed origin — European, Commonwealth and Eurasian — but with his expansive personality and good humour, he transcended divisions of race and rank, and helped to bind the unit together. In the preface to Pavillard's account of his experiences, *Bamboo Doctor* (1960), Sir William Goode, who shared much of the captivity and was later Governor of Singapore, described the respect in which Pavillard was held: "In his book he tells much of the story of those days. But he has not brought out the faith we all had in him, our confidence that if he was there, things would be all right."

Stanley Septimus Pavillard was the seventh son of Victor Eugene Pavillard, a British subject of Swiss descent and his Spanish wife, Susana. He was educated at Liverpool Institute and Elesmere College, Shropshire. In 1939 he qualified in general medicine at the University of Edinburgh.

Pavillard volunteered for war service in 1940, and was appointed to a civilian medical post in Penang, Malaysia, which carried with it the position of medical officer of the local volunteer force. He

soon transferred to Singapore, where he became a full-time medical officer. A secondment to the Bedong Group Hospital was cut short after a matter of days when the Japanese arrived, and Pavillard was captured in Singapore on February 15, 1942. His earliest task as a prisoner of war was to assist at the Alexandra Hospital in the aftermath of the massacre by the Japanese of Allied medical staff and patients. In October 1942 he accompanied a battalion of 650 prisoners of war to Thailand, spending 12 months in the jungle camps on the Burma-Thailand Railway, and then working in the hospitals in the base camps until his release in 1945.

Between 1946 and 1955, he was in private practice in Singapore, where many of his first patients were men who had endured captivity alongside him in Thailand. Later, in 1956, he received from the University of Madrid the medical qualifications that enabled him to practise in Las Palmas until his retirement in 1989. In 1993 he came to live in England, latterly at St Dunstan's, Brighton. He was a familiar figure at reunions of prisoners of war, and he was much feted in 1995 at the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the end of the war with Japan.

In 1947 he was appointed MBE for his services as a prisoner of war and in the following year he received the Territorial Decoration.

He was married in 1950 to Irene Templeton, who died in 1992. He is survived by their three daughters.

## Latest wills

Philip James White, of Lezayre, Isle of Man, left estate valued at £1,585,103 net. Barbara Rollason, of Clunywood, Craven Arms, Shropshire, left estate valued at £5,439,884 net. She left £3,000 to Age Concern England, and to the RNIB.

Alan Westley, of Northampton, left estate valued at £3,940,641 net.

Doris Agnes Mary Richmond, of Fulkestone, Kent, left estate valued at £3,027,025 net. Olive Barbara Coggins, of West Bridgford, Nottingham, left estate valued at £2,368,095 net.

Marjorie Ashfield, of Broume, Bungay, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,042,205 net. John Noel Barrett-Evans, of Coventry, left estate valued at £952,174 net.

He left shares in his residuary estate for a musical scholarship at St Edmund's School, Canterbury, in thanks and memory for his education there 1934-1942.

Geoffrey Cleveland Jackson Butterfield, of Lyndhurst, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,302,966 net.

London SWS, left estate valued at £2,14,890 net. He left £10,000 to the Sivile Club and to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust; £3,000 each to Winchester College, Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, British Heart Foundation, Oxfam, National Trust, Lady Mary's Nursing Home, and the Royal College of Physicians.

He left £1,000 to the British Blind Dogs for the Blind, and £1,000 to the Royal Society for the Blind.

He left £1,000 to the RNLI.

He left £1,500 to the Portinscale Village Hall Committee; £500 each to Keswick Hospital Nurses Committee and Keswick Agricultural Society.

Ronald James Foord, of Epsom, Surrey, left estate valued at £2,339,464 net.

Anna Rosa Forster, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,592,496 net. Robert Winston Herrington, of Little Hoole, Preston, left estate valued at £1,005,132 net. Sidney William Hibbs, of London NW1, left estate valued at £1,022,541 net.

He left £5,000 to the United Grand Lodge of England to set up a scholarship in his name. He left £1,000 to the Prayer Book Society; £1,000 each to benevolent funds of Paulatium Lodge No. 4924 and Paulatium Chapter No. 4924 and to the Cancer Research Fund.

In his residuary estate to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Frederick Anthony James Janson, of London SW3, left estate valued at £2,373,542 net. He left £2,500 to the Harrison Homes for the Elderly.

Alice Lucas, of Cockermouth, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,149,435 net.

Kenneth Willis Mason, of East Preston, West Sussex, left estate valued at £2,339,464 net.

JOSEPH CONRAD A PHILOSOPHER OF THE SEA His proper name was Joseph Conrad Korzeniowski, and he was born in the Ukraine in 1857 of a Polish landed family. His father, a man of letters who translated Shakespeare into Polish, became involved in the Polish rebellion of 1863, and was banished to Vologda. He returned, however, for the last year and a half of his life to Cracow, where his son Joseph passed his boyhood.

At an early age his passion for literature disclosed itself. "I was a reading boy," he recounted later in life: "I read, what I did not read". But he not only read; he dreamed. His dreams were of the far spaces of the globe; there is a tale that he pointed, when he was ten, to the unmarked tracts in Central Africa on an atlas of the time, declaring,

"When I grow up I will go there." But it was the sea that became an ever stronger lure as he approached manhood: he must be a sailor, and an English sailor, too. He was 19 when he found his way to

ON THIS DAY

August 4, 1924

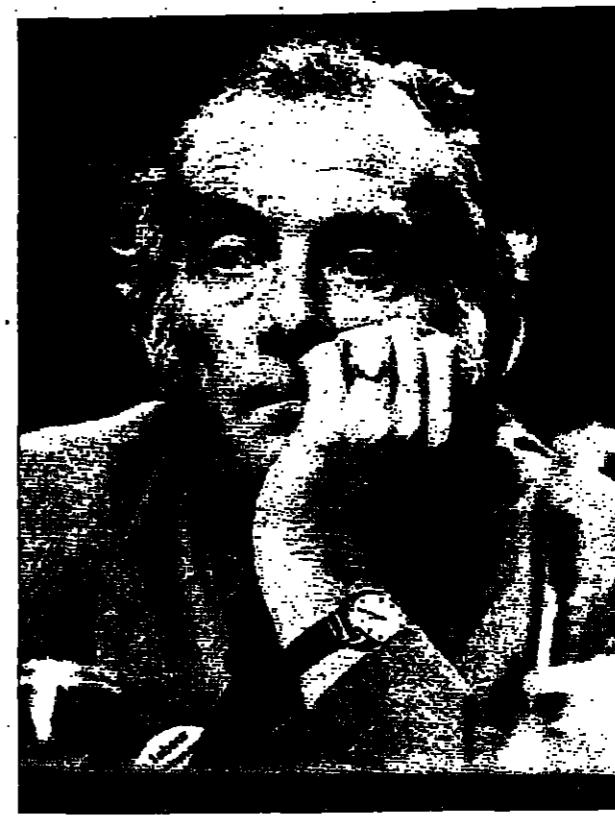
In this obituary notice, Conrad was described as one of the most remarkable examples of a writer who has adorned a language that was not his own by birth or upbringing

Marseilles and made his first voyage to the Gulf of Mexico. He worked on two French ships, and then, having joined the crew of an English steamer on her voyage to the Azov Sea, came back with her to Lowestoft, and thus reached his second fatherland.

... By 1884 he was a master in the British merchant service, and had reached the goal he had set himself. Before another ten years had passed he had tasted all the varieties of sea-life and steeped himself in the enchantments of

the tropical lands that haunted his imagination from childhood. Together with this hoarded knowledge, he had learned English seamanship and also, of necessity, the English language. Only the spark was needed now to fire in creative energy this triple acquisition. In some biographical notes that received his sanction he is said to have "dropped somewhat casually into the literary life, partly as a result of illness, partly through his friendship with John Galsworthy and the prompting of Edward Garnett." That "casually" can only refer to the occasion, that this or that stimulus sent Conrad to pen and paper. But that there lay deep in him the compulsion to expend himself in writing, he confessed in his book "Some Reminiscences", published in 1912. He speaks there of "a hidden, obscure necessity" ... He speaks, too, revealingly of a sentiment akin to pique which prompted me to render in words assembled with conscientious care the memory of things far distant and of men who had lived."

## ALEX KITSON



Alex Kitson, Deputy General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union: 1981-86, died on August 2 aged 75. He was born on October 21, 1921.

ALEX KITSON was one of the nearly men of union politics. Although he played a considerable part in moving both the Scottish TUC and the Scottish Labour Party steadily to the left in the 1960s and the early 1970s, he never formally rose beyond being number two to Moss Evans in Transport House, then the Smith Square headquarters of the Transport and General Workers' Union. But he was for a long time an influential figure in the counsels of the Labour Party, serving on its National Executive Committee for 18 years, 1968-86, and chairing the annual conference in 1981.

Something of a firebrand in his youth, Alexander Harper Kitson fought his way up in the rugged school of Scottish industrial politics. As a member of the Scottish Commercial Motormen's Union, and an employee of the St Cuthbert's Co-operative Society, he started out driving a milk浮 around Edinburgh — early years that became part of national folklore, since his apprentice on the round was the future James Bond, Sean Connery. (It used to amuse Kitson, in his last public incarnation as chairman of Lothian Region Transport Board, to announce that he had been personally responsible for seeing to it that the multi-millionaire Connery got his bus pass.)

Although his last years as an active trade unionist were spent in London — effectively becoming chairman of the T&GWU during Moss Evans's long illness in 1981 — Kitson's power base always lay in Scotland. His own union, the Scottish Motormen (of which he served as general secretary for 12 years), did not amalgamate with the T&G until 1971, and by then Kitson had succeeded in forming a number of local alliances — notably with two Scottish Communists, Mick McGahey

and unwisely, the Government took.

Kitson once nearly got into hot water with the Commons Privileges Committee for threatening to withdraw all financial support from T&G-sponsored Labour MPs who were pro-European, but in later years he was seen to mellow. He became part of the "soft Left" majority which Neil Kinnock established on the National Executive Committee very soon after his election as leader in 1983. Having been chairman of the party's international sub-committee since 1982, he was also instrumental in organising the clean sweep that removed all the important "hard Left" sub-committee chairmen.

Thinking better of running against Ron Todd, he retired in 1986. He returned to Edinburgh, where he had always kept a house, and joined the Lothian Region Transport Board as a director that same year (he became the board's chairman in 1990). His wife Ann died earlier this year, and he is survived by two daughters.

## STANLEY PAVILLARD

Stanley Septimus Pavillard, MBE, medical officer on the Burma-Thailand Railway, 1942-45, died in Brighton on July 24 aged 84. He was born in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands on January 19, 1913.



THE contribution





TODAY IN THE

THE WORLD'S  
FAIREST MAN

Rob Hughes and  
David Powell  
catch the sprint  
stars in Athens  
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ENGLAND'S  
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Hollies in tandem to face  
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victory for  
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in the  
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## TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 4 1997

CHARITY SHIELD TRIUMPH CAN HERALD NEW ERA OF SUCCESS

Captain  
Keane  
takes over  
the helm

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

DIFFERENT face, similar character, same old story. At Wembley yesterday, Roy Keane, successor to the departed Eric Cantona, led Manchester United for the first time in a "competitive" capacity and took up where the enigmatic Frenchman had left off — with a victory.

It might have been the FA Littlewoods Charity Shield, and only after a 4-2 penalty shoot-out win against Chelsea, but Keane's smile told a tale of expectation as he collected the trophy. This could be the first of many: the king is dead, long live the king.

Keane and Cantona share many images, mostly of a brittle, easily inflamed nature, but the inspirational qualities that lie within are undoubtedly. Keane was exemplary on his debut, apart from a careless foot in the face of Gustavo Poyet, the Chelsea midfield player, and produced everything asked of him by Alex Ferguson, his manager.

"Roy is the best all-round player in the game," Ferguson said. "He hasn't trained much this week but his interceptions

and tackling around the box, especially near the end of the match, were tremendous. He has got all the right ingredients to be a great captain. It did seem a bit strange without Eric, but that was a great era and we have to move on."

Keane, the Ireland midfield player, also made a brief, parting mention of the Cantona years. "Eric will be missed, of course he will," he said, "but life goes on. It is a great honour to play for United and also to be given the armband. It's nice to pick up a trophy so soon and, hopefully, this is the first of many."

Neither Ferguson nor Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, were impressed by a fractured, occasionally fractious, affair which finished 1-1 to force the shoot-out. "There was a lot of carelessness by both teams," Ferguson said. "We've had a tiring pre-season programme, with a lot of travelling, but we've got a week now before our first league game and we'll be ready by then."

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ATHLETICS: BRITISH MEDAL HOPE RECOVERS AFTER SHAKY START IN HEPTATHLON AS TRIPLE JUMPER MAKES OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

## Lewis is poised to mount challenge

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE contest to decide the world's best all-round woman athlete, Denise Lewis, of Great Britain, forced her way back into contention last night after three of the seven events of the heptathlon at the world championships in Athens. Lewis, the Commonwealth champion who is seeking her first world title, brought anguished memories of the Atlanta Olympic Games flooding back as she made an uncertain start, but she may yet do better than her Olympic bronze medal.

Although Lewis was fifth after three events, she is arguably the best second-day competitor in the field and a medal was looking a strong possibility as they went to their blocks for the 200 metres in the last event of the opening day. However, Sabine Braun, from Germany, was showing the degree of form that has been missing from her lately, but which took her to the 1991 world championship gold medal and to two European titles.

Braun was leading by 16 points, but only 36 points separated Renate Nazaroviene, from Lithuania, in second place and Lewis, in fifth place. Braun had scored 3,072, Nazaroviene 2,956, with Natalya Sazanovich, from Belarus, third, on 2,950, Irina Vostrikova, from Russia, on 2,926 and Lewis on 2,920.

Speaking from Crete last week, where she had been training, Lewis had said that she had been rehearsing an early-morning start by getting up at 6am and making sure that she was out on the training track by 9am. She was not, she said, "the best person early in the morning". So it proved yesterday.

It seems hard on heptathletes that their first event carries the greatest potential for catastrophe. The challenge can be over almost before it has begun. The 100 metres hurdles is an uncompromising test of power, technique and speed, offering no second chance. Competitors are permitted three attempts in each of the four field events and, in the other two track races, the 200 and 800 metres, there is little chance of tripping or stumbling.

Lewis, who was in her blocks at 8am local time yesterday, looked wide-eyed and awake as she shot out to lead Braun over the early flights. However, as the German began to apply the pressure, Lewis seemed to catch sight of her opponent in her peripheral vision and it threw

her. She flattened the seventh hurdle and, in turn, it nearly flattened her.

"I was pleased to keep my feet," Lewis said. In the circumstances, the gain of staying in the race seemed to outweigh the losses: recording 13.43sec, she was 0.2sec slower than her personal best and 0.1sec outside the time she ran in Goteborg, Austria, two months ago, when she set her British record. It was a poor start, but not catastrophic.

Lewis's recovery in the Olympic Games last year, when she was in eighth place after five events, but retrieved a bronze medal, had taught her that one bitter pill need not leave a lasting taste. In the high jump and shot, the second and third events, the Briton proved, as she said beforehand, that she was better prepared than ever.

Her greatest triumph of the first day came when, facing her last attempt at 1.81 metres in the high jump, she went clear. Leaping to her feet, she punched the air with both fists. After continuing and jumping 1.84 metres, equaling her personal best, the importance of that success to her, given the form of her two main opponents, became increasingly apparent. Braun jumped 1.90 metres and Sazanovich 1.84. Sazanovich had shown as much character as Lewis, more in fact, clearing 1.81 and 1.84 metres at her third attempt.

Although she has a personal best of 1.94, Braun was delighted. "I cannot remember the last time I jumped 1.90, but it was a long time ago," she said. "This was the event I was uncertain about."

Lewis's self-confessed weakness is in the shot, but she had, she said, worked on it every day for a week recently, seeking to improve her technique. She was duly rewarded, adding 19 centimetres to her personal best, for 14.35 metres. She need to, because Braun and Sazanovich set personal bests as well.

Derrick Adkins, the defending world and Olympic champion, joined the list of big names who have gone out of the championships when he failed to reach the 400 metres final from yesterday. The 27-year-old from the United States faltered badly over the final 20 metres and could do no better than finish fifth in his semi-final. Samuel Marete, the 1991 world champion of Zambia, just made it into the final as one of the fastest losers.



Lewis was unconvincing in the 100 metres hurdles but recovered well in the later heptathlon events yesterday

## Thomas confident as Johnson falters

IWAN THOMAS'S world title hopes were lifted last night as Michael Johnson, of the United States, in 44.98sec, was not prepared to make the semi-finals of the 400 metres.

The world and Olympic champion, controversially handed a wild-card entry in Athens after missing the United States trials through injury, only finished fourth behind Jamie Baulch, the Great Britain No 3, and scraped through as a fast loser.

It was either a nearly fatal miscalculation as the Texan slowed almost to a halt in the finishing straight, or a sign of his fitness is truly suspect.

With real question marks now raised over Johnson's condition with two more rounds to go, Thomas's chances were brighter after he came through two rounds with no reaction to his own knee niggle. Thomas, second in his heat after

easing up behind Antonio Pettigrew, of the United States, in 45.39sec, was not prepared to make the semi-finals of the 400 metres.

"Don't underestimate Michael. There's a lot more left to come from him," the British record-holder said. "I'd never do that because it isn't about today. Tomorrow is when it starts to count. I just took it easy from 200 metres."

Johnson, unbeaten for eight years until suffering defeat in Paris in June, had looked like his old self as he cruised through the morning's first round heat. Last night, despite starting comfortably, he was going backwards as Baulch, two lanes outside him and running with real conviction, crossed the line in 45.06sec.

Johnson was passed by Davis Kamoga, of Uganda, and Ibrahima Wade, of Senegal, inside the last 10 metres and his time of 45.39sec made him 15th of the 16 qualifiers for today. Johnson rushed away from the changing area to the commentary booth of American television network NBC without comment, pausing only to pick up an NBC shirt.

Baulch, unaware that Johnson had finished so far adrift of him, smiled broadly when he was told, and was in bullish mood. "I felt very strong," he said. "I just wanted to qualify and to make sure I did what I had to, which was a good solid run. I feel good and I'm happy."

Mark Richardson, like Thomas troubled by a slight knee problem, also made it through with ease, following home Jerome Young, of the United States, in 45.05sec to complete a successful night for the British trio.

### RESULTS FROM ATHENS

#### Men

100 metres

**FIRST ROUND** (first three in each heat plus overall top 16 fastest) 1. I. Baulch (USA) 10.00; 2. E. Lewis (USA) 10.15; 3. J. March (USA) 10.21; 4. S. Braun (Germany) 10.24; 5. I. Vostrikova (Russia) 10.25; 6. D. Sazanovich (Belarus) 10.28; 7. J. Denzil (Nigeria) 10.31; 8. D. Lewis (USA) 10.31; 9. C. Darsilion (Nigeria) 10.43; 10. I. Vassilieva (Russia) 10.45; 11. M. Johnson (USA) 10.46; 12. J. Thompson (USA) 10.47; 13. A. Pichot (France) 10.48; 14. S. Cole (USA) 10.49; 15. D. Lewis (USA) 10.50; 16. I. Lewis (USA) 10.51; 17. J. Thompson (USA) 10.52; 18. D. Lewis (USA) 10.53; 19. J. Thompson (USA) 10.54; 20. S. Lewis (USA) 10.55; 21. J. Thompson (USA) 10.56; 22. J. Thompson (USA) 10.57; 23. I. Lewis (USA) 10.58; 24. J. Thompson (USA) 10.59; 25. J. Thompson (USA) 10.60; 26. J. Thompson (USA) 10.61; 27. J. Thompson (USA) 10.62; 28. J. Thompson (USA) 10.63; 29. J. Thompson (USA) 10.64; 30. J. Thompson (USA) 10.65; 31. J. Thompson (USA) 10.66; 32. J. Thompson (USA) 10.67; 33. J. 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## EQUESTRIANISM

# Hoy draws on Powers to capture Open title

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

ANDREW HOY and his mount, Darien Powers, part of the Australia gold medal-winning team at the Atlanta Olympic Games, confirmed their status as one of the top cross-country partnerships in the world when they won the Doubleprint British Open, at Gatcombe Park, yesterday after a breathtaking performance over the rain-soaked course.

Victory, Hoy's first in the event, came at the expense of Mary King, of Great Britain, who narrowly missed her fourth British Open title when she finished second, on King Solomon, and third, on Star Appeal.

King had been in the lead at the start of the cross country, but this was the biggest course that the nine-year-old King Solomon had confronted and King had been unwilling to hurry him.

Results ..... 37

Hoy, by contrast, fairly flew round the 30 fences, his only mistake coming at fence 18, the Evening Wall, where he got too close, causing Darien Powers to bang his knee. The part-Hannoverian grey gelding's formidable record includes a win at Le Lion d'Angers in 1994, twelfth place at the European championships the next year and the team gold in Atlanta. "He's just a fabulous horse," Hoy said. "He deserves this win."

Hoy, 38, is no less deserving. He is one of the most stylish riders around and Captain Mark Phillips's course — more demanding this year — together with the slippery ground penalised all but the most accurate partnerships. The infamous Land Rover fence (No 5) claimed two surprising victims in Mark Todd on his first horse, Stunning, and Andrew Nicholson, on Davy, both of whom ran out at the middle element. The new "bounce" fence (No 20) May.

Simon Barnes is full of admiration for the bond between horse and rider

Mary King had a horse called King William. Superb at dressage, stunning across country — but ever so slightly prone to the trashing of showjumping courses. At Atlanta, at the Olympic Games last summer, as chance would have it, King William was stabled next door to the brilliant showjumper, it's Otto. So, naturally, she and Geoff Billington, the horse's excellent and uncompromising rider, had the opportunity for many an exchange of views.

"If I'm in the lead after the cross country," King said, "can I borrow Otto for the showjumping?" The question was of course facetious, but the answer was filled with all kinds of truths about the chasms that lie between the many and various equestrian disciplines. "You can," he said, "but if he has five fences down, I don't want to see you bloody parting him."

The professional showjumper and the eventer are horsey people both, but each comes from a different equestrian universe. The same skills, different minds. Eventers caricature showjumpers as hard-headed — no, let us say it, cynical, expedient, and far too hard on a horse. Showjumpers see eventers as sentimental, forever fiddle-faddling about over imaginary problems, and when you come down to it, soft at the centre.

Of course, both are right, both are wrong. The showjumper demands of his horse a contradiction. He requires a fabulous pedantry, a lunatic carefulness, because every touch of a fence costs faults, costs money. But the horse knows that a showjumping fence will always yield to his touch — the fence will forgive most of his errors.

An event horse knows that the fences of the cross country phase of an event such as the British Open, which concluded at Gatcombe Park yesterday, forgive nothing and nobody. Like the big fences of top level showjumping, they make massive athletic and technical demands. But the biggest demand that eventing makes is in that little technicality called courage.

An eventer needs the courage to risk his, or for that



Andrew Hoy steers Darien Powers to the British Open at Gatcombe Park

master her, neck. He needs the courage to trust someone to look after his neck and he needs the still greater courage to put that trust in an individual from a different species. That rule holds true for riders and the horses.

Gatcombe Park is a wonderful natural amphitheatre, its stone house snug and secure at the head of the valley. Its cross country course has been brilliantly laid out to bring every viewing advantage to the spectator and every nuance of the undulating country to the testing of rider and horse.

Stand on the valley floor and watch the crazy downhill staircase of a fence called the Tripleple Treble, which is followed by a hell-mell descent of a slope of about 45 degrees. At its foot, a leap over rails into water. All the way down that slope, the rider

must do everything to tell his horse to stop — without actually making him stop. Balance, athleticism, willingness to listen to the rider, and of course sheer courage. "He was getting — not exactly terrified — but shocked" King said, after she and King Solomon had finished second. "As if he was saying — 'what on earth is she going to ask me to do now?'

He is doubts began on the precipitous triple, and King, not one to bully a horse, eased up a little and sacrificed her chance of victory. You do not risk damage to a horse's courage. You can under ten years of work on a horse in a single afternoon.

Event riders, as a matter of routine, ask absolutely ridiculous things of their horses. It is impossible to understand

how a horse puts up with it. As I watched the horses steaming into that triple, I imagined them turning to their riders, in the manner of Benjamin turning to his father in *The Graduate* before making his entrance in his new frogman's suit, and saying: "Can we discuss this please?"

But they don't. Horse after horse flung himself off the top of the hill, and the rider flung himself with them, each trusting the one to catch the other before they hit the bottom.

The difference between showjumping and eventing is that in showjumping the fences forgive the horses. In eventing, riders do the forgiving. The best riders forgive their horses anything, then to take the blame for anything that has gone wrong. Mary King finished second. She patted her horse.

## Courage and trust must prevail

### Doohan closes in on fourth world crown

MICHAEL DOOHAN strengthened his grip on the 1997 world 500cc motorcycle title when he won the Brazilian Grand Prix in Rio de Janeiro. It was Doohan's ninth win in ten races this season and his seventh in succession. Doohan, starting from pole on a Repsol Honda, made a slow start before settling into his customary dominant role.

Doohan, of Australia, was in the lead by halfway through the first of the 24 laps and stayed there, despite a determined challenge from Tadayuki Okada, of Japan, who finished second on his Honda. Loris Capirossi, of Italy, was third on his Yamaha. Doohan can make certain of his fourth world championship at the British Grand Prix in two weeks. The Italian, Giacomo Agostini, holds the record of 11 race wins in a season.

### Mickelson well clear

GOLF: Phil Mickelson is within sight of his second victory in the Sprint International event in Castle Rock, Colorado. The American Ryder Cup player took a five-point lead into the final round after a third round of 66, which included six birdies, had earned him 12 points under the modified Stableford system. Second place was held by another American, Skip Kendall. Nick Faldo failed to beat the cut.

### McRae forced out

MOTOR RALLYING: Colin McRae, right, of Scotland, and Tommi Mäkinen, of Finland, were forced out of the New Zealand rally on the second day in gruelling conditions in Auckland yesterday. Mäkinen, the world champion, crashed his Mitsubishi, while McRae, who was leading after the first day, broke a cam belt in his Subaru. Carlos Sainz, of Spain, leads by 22sec.

### Bailey takes title

SQUASH: Tania Bailey, of Lincolnshire, has won the world junior women's championship by beating Isabelle Stuen, of France, 9-6, 9-1, 9-7 in the final in Rio de Janeiro. Bailey, 17, already the European junior champion, will next lead England in pursuit of the world junior women's team title that they last won in 1991. Vicki Lankester, Cheryl Beaumont and Lauren Briggs are likely to join Bailey in the team.

### Britain stage recovery

MODERN PENTATHLON: The Great Britain women's team of Kate Alliby, Katie Houston and Julia Allen won the bronze medal in the team relay competition at the world championships in Sofia. In sixth place after the shooting, fencing, swimming and showjumping, the team recorded the fastest time over the 4,500-metre cross country course to finish behind Italy and Poland.

### Success for Gourlay

BOWLS: David Gourlay, from Annbank, won the Scottish singles championship at Ayr National on Saturday with a 21-18 victory achieved on the last bowl against Alex Deans, from Poole. Gourlay has won a record nine national indoor titles, but this was his first triumph in an outdoor championship. "This victory means everything to me," he said.

### Hingis has final say

TENNIS: Martina Hingis, right, the world No 1, humbled Mary Pierce 6-0, 6-2 in the semi-finals of the WTA Toshiba Classic in San Diego, California. Monica Seles overcame Amanda Coetzer 6-3, 6-4. In the semi-finals of the Canadian Open in Montreal, Chris Woodruff beat Yevgeni Kafelnikov 5-7, 7-5, 6-3, while Gustava Kuerten beat Michael Chang, 6-3, 6-1.

### Higgins doubtful

SNOOKER: Alex Higgins, who sprained his right wrist and ankle in an incident on Friday, may not be able to compete in the second event of the professional qualifying school that begins in Plymouth today. Higgins, due to meet Ian Hirdman, may face disciplinary proceedings after police were called to the venue when Higgins became involved in a dispute with a tournament official.



SAILING: BRITISH CREWS REPAIR THEIR REPUTATION AS UNITED STATES SET PACE AFTER CHANNEL RACE

## Law changes begin to bear fruit in Admiral's Cup

BY EDWARD GORMAN

SAILING CORRESPONDENT

SAILORS in the British Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup team are being careful not to get carried away because there is still a long way to go in the championship but, after a solid performance in the Channel Race over the weekend, a top-three overall finish is now on the cards.

That may not sound too dramatic, but set against the modest expectations for the team early on this year and the humiliation of last place two years ago, a top-three placing would represent a big step forward.

Going into the two windward/leeward races in Christ-

church Bay today — races four and five of the nine-race series — the three-boat Britain team is lying second overall, with the United States leading and Germany third.

The Americans compiled the best results in the 180-mile Channel Race with two seconds and a first. The British were one of three teams to score a total of ten points, with the big boat, *Corum Indulgence*, fourth, and both the ILC 40, *Easy Oars* and the Mumm 36, *Bradamante*, third in class.

The showing of Tony Buckland's *Easy Oars*, skippered by Andy Beaufort, was perhaps the most encouraging. She was as fast as expected in light airs that dominated

the later stages of the 24-hour race, but also held her own during the fresher early stages, including the opening bear westwards out of the Solent, when the westerly breeze reached 25 knots.

Results ..... 37  
Photograph ..... 37

Vincent Geake, the navigator on *Easy Oars*, was delighted with third even though a chance of a win slipped away in the close manoeuvring at the finish. "We're very pleased," he said. "In stronger winds we stayed with the others and

when the wind came light, we were definitely quick."

On the big boat, the skipper, Chris Law, brought in two extra helmsmen for the race, Stuart Chilvers and Graham Bailey, who normally drives *Arbitrator*. Chilvers, who will also join the boat for the Fastnet, is impressed with the change in atmosphere since Law took over a couple of months ago. "Chris has done a great job in co-ordinating abilities and talents on the boat," he said.

While the Italian big boat, *Noon Madina*, got away early on and scored an immaculate race, winning both on handicap and on the water, *Indulgence* stayed in touch with the pack and could have done better had

a couple of shifts gone their way in the final stages in Poole Bay.

After all racing was cancelled on Saturday due to lack of wind, *Skandia Life Coves* got under way yesterday, with all 30 classes enjoying fresh conditions under wet and overcast skies. In the maxi class, Mike Slade's *Skandia Longobarda* avenged his defeat on Saturday by Johnnie Caulcott, who challenged him to a race under motor around *HMS Manchester* and narrowly beat him.

In Class 1, Kit Hobb's *Independent Bear* took the honours, with the veteran Cassidy 55, *Australian Maid*, owned by Jon Wardill, second and Glyn Williams's *Wolf* third.

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## Handicap hampers Laird effort

THE final of the tournament for the Cowdray Park Challenge Cup, which had attracted an entry of 16 teams, was played in wet and slippery conditions over five chukkas at Midhurst yesterday (John Watson writes). Brook Johnstone's side, CS Brooks, the holders, beat the Beaumont Club squad, Laird, by 6½ goals to five.

The 16-goal advantage conceded to CS Brooks was a result of the recent handicap promotion given to Laird's No 3, Will Lucas, which put their team aggregate up to 16, one more than the limit for the flotation price.

Laird proved to be the more closely co-operative side as shown in particular by Lucas and his Chilean No 2, Juan Donoso, who gave an impressive display of mutual support.

They were, though, too often taken unawares by lightning solo attacks from the two CS Brooks linchpins, Novillo Astrada and Charles Beresford.

CS Brooks ..... 15 (16)  
Laird ..... 10 (15)

John Watson

## Markets set for promotion

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



However, relief is on hand. There are many in the City who think a renewed boom in football shares is on the cards. The logic is that most clubs came to the market showing poor results, largely because of the fact that they had been investing heavily in players and in their stadiums. The high market prices obtained were down to the prospect of riches from pay-per-view television of football.

Westsiders putting their money behind their passion will have lost their red and white-striped shirts by now — but they are not the only ones. The performances of the 18 quoted football clubs in the past few months have been a cause of much heartache. Among the worst have been Millwall (whose shares were recently relisted, having gone into administration), Aston Villa (15 per cent off the flotation price) and the Cispian Group, owner of Leeds United, where the poor financial performance has gone hand-in-hand with the team's inability to score goals.

The reason is news from

Italy that the take-up for the

pay-per-view system launched by Telepiù was not good.

Applying this to the United

Kingdom is dangerous, as

there had not been any previous pay television coverage of football in Italy and new

subscribers had to purchase expensive decoding systems.

## CYCLING

### Clay staves off Obree challenge

GRAEME OBREE, the former world pursuit champion, made a spirited return to action after a ten-month sabbatical following his second-place finish in the British national trials in March.

Clay, the British two-mile champion, needed to produce a course and event record time of 15min 58sec to beat Obree in the final.

"I can only go faster now," Obree said afterwards. "He will need to go faster to gain selection for the Great Britain world championship track team in Perth, Australia, at the end of the month. At the moment, Obree has only the British 20-mile time-trial championship, on September 28, pencilled in on his calendar.

Five Britons in a six-man breakaway in the closing stages of the 119-mile race from the Cotswolds failed to match the speed of Tony Bracke, of Belgium, who went over a ten-mile

miles to go to win by just 7sec. From John Tanner and Rob Hayles, Tanner had the consolation of winning the King of the Mountains award.

JASON NISSE

YOU NEVER MISS A  
football MATCH...  
NEVER MISS A  
programme

FOOTBALL: CHELSEA BOW TO CHAMPIONS IN CHARITY SHIELD AFTER PENALTY SHOOT-OUT AT WEMBLEY

## United resume normal service

Chelsea  
Manchester United  
(Man Utd win 4-2 on pens)By OLIVER HODGKIN  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AN HOUR before the kick-off, the group of young girls wandering up the Wembley Hill Road, their faces painted a garish mix of blue and white, were busy singing last year's Chelsea song. Farther on, in the shadow of Wembley's great walls, a cluster of Manchester United supporters wandered towards the turnstiles wearing shirts with the name of their beloved hero, Eric Cantona.

Charity Shield, a curtain rising on the winners of last season at the beginning of this one, a sentimental harking back to the glories of the past, just when clubs are about to embark on the search for fresh honours. In some ways, it feels as if it should be a finale not the curtain-raiser that it traditionally is.

Yesterday, though, in front of a capacity crowd that had choked London's roads hours before the kick-off, in the first throes of a new campaign's enthusiasm, it served its purpose by doubling as English football's annual rite of renewal, the beginning of the feast at the end of the fast.

It was not a spectacular match and it ended in that most unsatisfactory of ways, a penalty shoot-out, convincingly won by United, whose takers did not miss a kick, but by the time United and Chelsea began their laps of honour, the memories of old idols had faded and the crowd was rising to acclaim new heroes.

The air was filled with excited shrieks from the stands when United brought on David Beckham with 20 minutes to go. Flags proclaiming him, not Cantona, as "King" fluttered in the breeze. And when Roy Keane climbed the steps to the royal box for his first domestic trophy as United captain, there was a heady sense that this could be the start of even greater things for Alex Ferguson's side.

At the Chelsea end, opposite the tunnel, there were other reasons to revel in the thrill of the new. If Roberto Di Matteo marred his meanderings of this FA Cup Final goal by missing one of the Chelsea penalties, Gustavo Poyet, the Uruguay midfield player bought from Real Zaragoza during the summer, gave a performance of such elegance and sus-



Hughes, shrugging off Pallister's challenge, leaves the United defender on the ground as Chelsea search for a breakthrough at Wembley

tained threat tucked in behind Mark Hughes and Gianfranco Zola that his signing must surely herald an improvement in Chelsea's FA Carling Premiership fortunes this season.

Yet, despite the feeling that Chelsea's star is on the rise, most of the feelings of exhilaration stemmed from watching the beginnings of the latest incarnation of a United side that is still evolving towards its goal of European domination.

Without ever being at their best, Scholes, the fast-emerging talent, was lively and inventive on the right side of midfield; Sheringham, the new signing from Tottenham Hotspur, was a first-half fountain of clever flicks and beautifully

weighted passes eerily reminiscent of the Frenchman he has been bought to replace and Butt and Keane were the epitome of solidity and dominance in the heart of midfield.

Sheringham fashioned United's first and probably best chance in the fifth minute, when he lifted a ball over Clarke's head and into the path of Scholes, playing his first competitive match since he burst into the national consciousness during Le Tournoi de France, bore down on de Cooy but rammed his right-foot shot deep into the Dutch goalkeeper's midriff.

After Keane had welcomed Poyet to English football with a drop-kick that connected with the side of his head

instead of the ball, the Uruguayan emulated Sheringham by lofting a fine pass over Johnsen to Zola. Zola took the ball on but could not get into a position to shoot before Pallister frustrated him with a saving tackle.

Midway through the first half, as Wise raised the tempo with a mistimed tackle on Sheringham and a playful tap on the head of Butt, which the United man reacted to as though it were a right cross, Schmeichel was brought into action for the first time, saving comfortably from Hughes's header after an intelligent cross from Morris. Six minutes before half-time, Poyet spurned an opportunity to cement his reputation with his

new admirers when he swung a low cross from Zola with only Schmeichel to beat but got only the faintest of touches.

On the stroke of half-time, a fine first-time ball from Giggs put Sheringham through, but he dragged his shot wide and, seven minutes after the interval, United paid the price for his miss. Zola's deep corner caught Schmeichel flat-footed at the back post and the ball sailed over him to Hughes, who dispatched it unerringly into the net.

Five minutes after that, United hit back. Giggs's outswinging corner eluded Leboeuf and Johnsen, who had not scored for United in 42 games last season, nodded the ball down so firmly that de

Goye could only push it into the roof of the net.

Beckham, who has been warned by Ferguson that he may have to spend the first three weeks of the season on the bench, may have got the message that he was not in the forefront of the manager's thoughts when he was forced to appear in a shirt that bore his name on it — missing the "H". Reputations count for nothing now that the new season is upon us.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-2-1): P. Schmeichel, D. Venables, R. Keane, G. Butt, R. Giggs (sub: D. Beckham, 72m); P. Scholes, R. Keane, N. Johnsen, E. Cantona, G. Zola, D. Leboeuf, F. Leboeuf, S. Clarke, D. Gossling, J. Morris (sub: D. Petrescu, 49), D. Wise, G. Poyet, R. Di Matteo — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Venables, 78). Referee: P. Jones

## Shearer sets World Cup finals as goal

ALAN SHEARER, the England captain, yesterday revealed the ambition that will fuel his drive to recover from a serious ankle injury. Shearer, who damaged ankle ligaments while playing for Newcastle United against Everton in an Umbro Cup match last week, aims to be the leading goalscorer during the World Cup finals in France next year.

The forward will be on the sidelines for several months as Newcastle's Premiership campaign begins. He also will miss England's World Cup qualifying matches against Moldova and Italy.

"Before this injury I had set myself two targets for the next 12 months — to help Newcastle to win at least one trophy and to finish as top scorer in the World Cup finals in France," he said.

"Both of those are still possible. Newcastle have a quality squad and will be up there challenging for the top honours by the time I'm fit to play again. The same applies

to England. There are plenty of good strikers capable of helping us qualify for the World Cup finals. But whoever replaces me must remember that he is only getting the N9 shirt on loan."

Shearer, who suffered cruciate knee ligament damage during his Blackburn Rovers days and has had three groin operations since joining Newcastle, is refusing to allow his latest injury setback to affect him adversely.

"I'll be back for Newcastle for them bid to win something and I'll be racing to go for England next summer, when I intend to finish top of the goal charts at the World Cup finals, just as I did in Euro 96."

Arsenal's home matches in the UEFA Cup this season will be televised on Channel 5. The station will also broadcast Chelsea's home games in the Cup Winners' Cup, Aston Villa in the UEFA Cup and Newcastle's "Champions" League qualifying round second-leg match against Croatia Zagreb on August 27.

He is a man who sometimes

## Duffy's mavericks making merry

Hibernian 2  
Celtic 1

By KEVIN McCARRA

THE environmental lobby would have been piqued with this gas-guzzler of a match, but the crowd at Easter Road was captivated by the sight of resources being squandered. The pitch was packed with men who were reckless with their energy and generous with the passion they brought to their opening fixture of the Bell's Scottish League season. Most of them were playing for an exuberant Hibernian.

There are misanthropes who gripe over the return of football, but only gratitude could be experienced at this game. The satisfaction lay in the velocity of the action and in the range of footballers who were permitted to participate.

Although opinions of the Hibernian manager, Jim Duffy, who only took the job in January, are still to be fully formed, he will never be a drudge.

He is a man who sometimes

seems to champion indolence, willing as he is to sign individuals who are irregular in their habits. Few other managers would have signed that prolific accumulator of red cards, Chic Charnley, yet the sight, eight minutes before the interval, of the veteran midfield player placing a drive against the bar from 35 yards left his manager only inches away from utter vindication.

Complete fulfilment arrived in the 76th minute, when Charnley scored the winning goal. He was abetted by Celtic's Henrik Larsson, the recent signing from Feyenoord, who was too adventurous with a pass out of defence. It rolled straight to Charnley and he manoeuvred before drilling a left-footed drive from 20 yards.

Duffy's affection for the mavericks also brought other rewards. When Tony Rousier was at Raith Rovers, appreciation for the range of his skills quelled with reservations about his fitness. All the same, Hibernian did not hesitate to bring him and yesterday his body was trim and his skills

steak, particularly when he created the opening goal in the 26th minute.

Cricketers talk of the "corridor of uncertainty" and football, too, has its treacherous zones. From the left wing, Rousier curled a dipping cross between the goalkeeper and the defence. Marshall, the goalkeeper, was unsure whether he should even attempt to reach it and as he paused, Power hurtled in to force the ball over the line. It is rare for Celtic, who had not lost to Hibernian in their previous 20 meetings, to appear bland and orthodox, but the attempt to be cautious in this game was misplaced. Wim Jansen, their head coach, chose to play with Johnson as the single target man, perhaps believing that they would outlast Hibernian. The home side, however, never did flag, and were impelled by a crowd that yearned to see punitive treatment of Jackson, who recently left Easter Road to sign for Celtic.

Given their rather mechanical display, it was predictable that Celtic's goal, an equaliser after 29 minutes, should come from a set-piece. Mackay met Donnelly's corner with a crashing header and Willie Miller, on the goalline, could do no more than assist it into his own net.

That may have been the only moment of the entire afternoon when Hibernian's sense of direction faltered.

HIBERNIAN (4-4-2): O. Gotschalos — W. Miller, J. Hughes, B. Walsh, J. Bodo — T. Boyd, P. McGarvey, C. Charnley, A. Dow — S. Charnley, J. Duffy, A. Tosh, G. Miller, I. Power (sub: G. Miller, 82).

CELTIC (3-5-1-1): G. Marshall — A. Stubbs, T. Boyd, M. Mackay — A. McNamee, D. Larson, P. Johnson, A. Thompson, F. Waghorn, T. M. Young — S. Donnelly — J. Johnson. Referee: W. Young

He is a man who sometimes

commences with a game against Heart of Midlothian at Ibrox this evening.

In addition to registering Celtic's defeat, Rangers also observed unsatisfactory results for other leading clubs. Aberdeen dominated the match with Kilmarnock at Pittodrie on Saturday, but could only manage a 0-0 draw. Dundee United established their superiority at McDiarmid Park, yet failed to increase the lead given to them by Kjell Olofsson against St Johnstone and conceded an own goal by Stewart McKinnon.

Celtic's convoluted distress will be pleasing to supporters of their principal rivals. Indeed, Rangers may feel that they have made a satisfactory start to the Bell's Scottish League premier division campaign before they have even played their first match. For them, the programme

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England ring changes for the fifth Test with Hollioake brothers poised to make historic debuts

SEAN DEMPSEY

## Stewart reverts to dual role in opening gambit

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

A NATION weaned on heroes will rejoice and, in the week when the Wellington boots of football tramp roughed over summer sport, cricket will turn previous reluctant heads. Even the opposition may shift uneasily at the prospect of two of their own kind — young, brash and audibly Australian — lining up against them.

Reacting to parlous circumstance, the England selectors have unashamedly gambled. The Hollioake brothers, already invested with soap-opera status, both feature in a 13-man party for the fifth Cornhill Test at Trent Bridge this week and the balance of the squad dictates that they will create history by making their debuts together.

The hunches do not end here. The decision that caused a longer debate and a greater dilemma concerned the Hollioakes' Surrey team-mate, Alec Stewart. It was widely agreed that he could not go on batting at No 3 and, indeed, he will not. Rather than taking the prescribed route down to No 6, though, Stewart will now go in first.

As he will also continue to keep wicket, Stewart is resuming the most onerous duties imaginable — those it had tacitly been agreed, he would not undertake again. Needs must. After much the most protracted and animated meeting of the summer, the selectors concluded that this was the only role that would satisfy Stewart's temperament and their own requirements.

Within the reshuffling of a

demonstrably flawed batting order, Mark Butcher and Mark Ealham are sacrificed, while John Crawley is promoted, probably as high as No 3. Graham Thorpe keeps his place, though only, I understand, after an agonised debate that pitted the negatives of his state of mind against his acknowledged ability to score Test runs in volume and at speed.

Predictably, Mike Smith is the one immediate casualty among the bowlers and his place will almost certainly go

Trophy and their selection will now be seen in some quarters as belated and begrudging.

This is far from the truth. Past England selectors have certainly been timorous, even disdainful, in the presence of precocious talent, but David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, and his colleagues were absolved from that accusation as soon as they included the Hollioakes in their one-day planning at a stage when very few pundits would even have considered the younger brother, Ben.

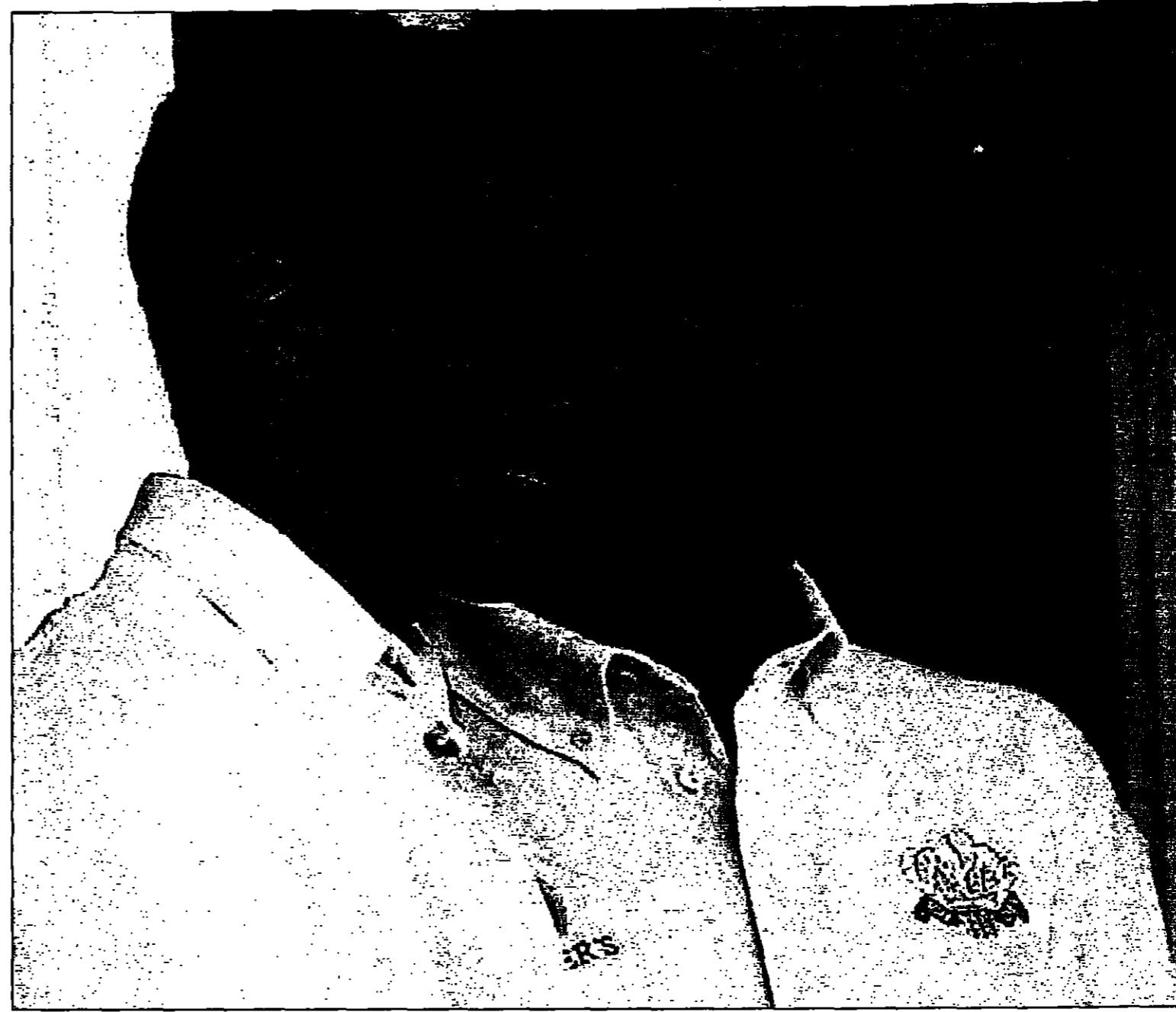
They went further and Ben, 19, played in the final match at Lord's. When he made runs, vividly and fearlessly, he became the darling of the tabloid tendency and, in such minds, the saviour of the game. It was all too fanciful. His bowling was naive and unproven and his batting contained obvious technical flaws.

Two months on, nothing much has altered except England's needs. The series is being lost, the dressing-room requires a transfusion of self-belief and the country is in no mood to condone blind faith in that which will not work. Ben comes in on a whim, a prayer and a justifiable hope that his big-time temperament, already displayed before two full houses at Lord's, will stretch the extra mile.

As there is nobody else in the squad equipped at No 7, it can be assumed that Hollioake minor will play one place on the card beneath his Surrey captain and older brother. Adam, narrowly rejected in favour of Ealham at the start of this series, was an automatic inclusion, though few would have forecast the order as it is to be revised around him.

Butcher is entitled to be shocked, perhaps even to feel that he was a more convenient, less emotive casualty than Thorpe. Their runs aggregates for the series are only seven apart, but the impression is that Thorpe, at his best a destroyer of high-class bowling, remains more likely to make an influential century than was doubtless a decisive factor. Interestingly, Graveney spoke to him before the selectors met to satisfy himself of his state of mind.

"We need to grab the initiative," Graveney said. "We need to win." And, within that deceptively straightforward strategy, the utterly straightforward Hollioakes are natural leads for lead roles. Adam is plainly ready, bursting for the challenge. As of Ben, the most exciting newcomer in two decades, Graveney is confident. "The big stage doesn't frighten him," he said. "People might think it is too early, but there is no doubt in our minds that he is going to be a force in international cricket."



The Hollioakes, Ben, left, and Adam, are looking forward to being the first brothers to make their England Test debuts together this century

## Brothers answer call to arms

Alan Lee looks at two players for whom Test cricket will be a family business

**A**dam Hollioake is ruefully familiar with being upstaged by his kid brother. It happened in the Texaco Trophy series in May and it happened in the Benson and Hedges Cup final last month. Now, with his Test debut granted at last, Adam has to contend with Ben being fast-tracked into the England side on the very same day.

"I missed out somewhere," Adam said good-naturedly at Lord's last month, after Ben's spectacular 98 had stolen the glory that, as captain of Surrey, would otherwise have been his. "He certainly got the lion's share of the talent."

Yet if it is this disproportion that explains why Hollioake minor has made the Test side at 19, six years ahead of his brother, the long-term implications of this remarkable family double are at least as significant for Adam.

"We need to grab the initiative," Graveney said. "We need to win." And, within that deceptively straightforward strategy, the utterly straightforward Hollioakes are natural leads for lead roles. Adam is plainly ready, bursting for the challenge. As of Ben, the most exciting newcomer in two decades, Graveney is confident. "The big stage doesn't frighten him," he said. "People might think it is too early, but there is no doubt in our minds that he is going to be a force in international cricket."

played poorly this season and their behaviour, judged by umpires' reports, has been disreputable. The image of the team is unattractive and perhaps Hollioake has realised this in time, for he has taken the brave and timely step of dismissing his controversial agent, Gareth James.

With the junior Hollioake, the selling point is not so much what he does but the way that he does it. Like his more openly aggressive brother, he has that indefinable thing called "attitude" and it is for this reason that the selectors shelved their well-reasoned reluctance to rush a teenager of exciting innocence and alarming technical vulnerability. They did it because, 19 or not, Ben Hollioake is neither innocent nor vulnerable when it comes to a contest with his native land. In this, he may not upstage big brother, but he will certainly seek to be his equal.

Adam was certain to play in this game — his inclusion was decided as soon as the England batting failed again at Headingley ten days ago — and the promotion of Ben to be the youngest England Test cricketer since Brian Close, 48 years ago, came only after the three selectors convened at Hove on Friday and watched his influence on an under-19 international.

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## Surrey pair confident of making an impact

By SIMON WILDE AND JOHN STERN

**BEN HOLLOOKE** was en route to Southampton to practise with the England under-19 players when he answered his mobile phone to find David Graveney on the other end of the line to tell him of his promotion to the Test squad.

"It was a surprise, though it had been at the back of my mind after the talk in the newspapers," Hollioake said. "If I play, I am sure I will not let anyone down."

"Although my form for Surrey has been so-so I am confident I will get a game. I will not mind if Adam plays and I do not ... he has

done more to deserve it."

Adam, six years older, believes that Ben has almost caught him up in terms of cricketing development. "Hopefully, he will get all the attention now because he likes it. When I was selected, they were delighted. When I told them that Ben was in as well, I think it was a bit much for them to handle."

"This is a game we have to win. I wouldn't be so optimistic as to think I will be solely responsible for injecting spirit into the side but I'd like to think I could influence it."

"Both Butcher and Ealham are unlucky," Graveney said. "Nobody simply gets thrown out any more and I have told each of them that they are part of our thinking for the future."

Graveney, aware of the surprise that would greet the latest revision of Stewart's job,

## Contrasting styles bring harmony to Glamorgan

Pat Gibson meets two men combining to push the Welsh county to unfamiliar heights

commerce and industry. A lot of counties leave it to the captain to make all the decisions but I believe in a collective management system.

"Matthew tends to fire from the hip a bit and there's nothing wrong with that. He is a very positive cricketer who loves the game and I think he is doing a very good job. I tend to sit back and think a little longer instead of rushing into things and maybe that makes a good combination."

Maynard could not agree more. "I think that if both captain and coach are exactly the same, things might not always work out. We are different. I am quite spontaneous whereas he is a bit more studious. I doubt whether he was like that as player but as a coach he is very meticulous."

"He does not just look at the overall picture, he tears it into a thousand pieces and studies every one. He throws ideas at us all the time, which is brilliant. That is the sign of a quality coach and he's certainly brought some good things that has come from my days in Glamorgan cricket."

So what has he done to turn the Glamorgan underachievers into a side capable of completing a double this season? "I haven't a clue," Fletcher, now 48, shrugged, "unless it is a style of management that has come from my days in Glamorgan cricket."

So much so that Glamorgan would love to have him back for a few more years but that will depend on Western Province. "Glamorgan have approached me and I hope I don't let them down by leaving it too late," Fletcher said, "but I've got to get back to South Africa and see what happens there."

"Maybe Western Province will let me come back, because there is no doubt that, while I hope I have passed over some ideas to Glamorgan, I've certainly learnt a lot about cricket from being over here and that could be of benefit to South Africa."

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Maynard: impulsive

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THE REWARD TIMES

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## CRICKET

# Australians at odds with crowd behaviour

By SIMON WILDE

TAUNTON (third day of four): Somerset, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 108 runs ahead of the Australians.

THE Australians scarcely need to improve their cricket (they are quite good enough at the game and have been on the road in South Africa and England for 22 of the past 25 weeks), they would not have been unduly concerned that the penultimate day of their match with Somerset fell victim to unrelenting rain yesterday. They did not even leave their hotel.

There may have been a shorage of cricket, but not of talk, in the aftermath of the extraordinary events of Saturday afternoon, when, during the final session, these most hard-bitten of cricketers demanded that action be taken against a few isolated, but evidently intoxicated, members of the Taunton crowd.

The object of the bad mouthing — predictable enough — was Shane Warne, who responded twice by stopping during his approach to the wicket. The mutter was taken up with the umpires by Steve Waugh, the acting captain of the Australians. Nigel Plews and John Steele summoned the Somerset welful man, who fetched Peter Anderson, the Somerset chief executive.

A few miscreants were identified and two men ejected from the ground by police, although no charges were laid. Somerset have promised to tighten their policy for future matches and next Sunday, when neighbouring Gloucestershire visit, non-members will be screened before being admitted.

There is no question that the behaviour of a handful of spectators was totally unacceptable and removal from the ground a deserving response. It is also the case that some of

the crowd behaviour towards the Australians this year has been worse than in 1993.

But the Australians have been taking stick for years and they have not complained before. Even when they returned in February to Johannesburg, where some poisonous language was directed at them three years ago, they simply steeled themselves and went out and beat South Africa by an innings.

Things need to be kept in perspective, as Anderson pointed out. At the time the Australians made their protests, Turner and Ecclestone, the Somerset second-wicket pair, were proving particularly troublesome to remove. If play was held up to sort out every heckler few games would proceed smoothly — and barely any in Australia.

Now we have Waugh, a sure pick in many people's Sedgers XI, saying: 'We can take a bit of heckling but this was just too personal.'

This is not the first time of late that the Australians have indulged in a spot of whistling and blowing. Since voicing their suspicions of attempted match-fixing two years ago, they have refused to play cricket in Sri Lanka because of security fears, called for a corruption clean-up in the organisation of World Cups and protested about bungled English efforts at pitch-fixing.

Perhaps they view themselves as the policemen of world cricket; perhaps they are experiencing mid-tour blues.

Granted a full day's play today, they could win again. Once Ecclestone and Turner had been separated, Warne quickly removed Lathwell. With Keith Parsons unable to bat — he broke a finger dropping Waugh — Somerset may do well to extend their second innings into the afternoon.

The Kent wicketkeeper, Steve Marsh, completes the run-out of Curtis, of Worcestershire, as Hick looks back in anguish

## Young could win vote over Walsh

By RICHARD HOBSON

EVEN some of the Gloucestershire staff had to ask "Shawn who" when the identity of the overseas replacement for Courtney Walsh was revealed earlier this year. It says much for the impact made by Shaun Young that he may be re-engaged next season, a decision is imminent — even if Walsh is available.

The Jamaican remains one of the finest fast bowlers in the world and has given unstinted service to the county, but Young has been a big influence in Gloucestershire's push towards their first championship success.

He has scored 632 runs at an average of almost 40 and taken 28 wickets at 26 apiece with his brisk medium-pace.

Philip August, the Gloucestershire cricket secretary, described his innings of 237 against Derbyshire last month as the best he had seen in 12 festivals at Cheltenham.

There are other considerations. The absence of Walsh, the chairman of the England selectors, is a significant reason for the development of Mike Smith into a Test-match bowler (albeit briefly, it would appear). Smith has risen to the challenge of becoming the main strike bowler, just as Mark Alleyne is enjoying his best season, having replaced Walsh as captain.

Young, 27, is being rested for the game against Pakistan A at Bristol, where play was washed out yesterday. He spent the end of last week as a

guest of David Boon, his fellow Tasmanian.

A member of the Australia A team that toured England two years ago, Young was due to play league cricket for Fleetwood before Gloucestershire moved in. Dave Gilbert, the Surrey coach, and Terry Alderman, another Australian who gave sterling service to Gloucestershire, offered glowing references for a powerful man who chose cricket ahead of Australian Rules as a teenager.

"Having seen county cricket from the outside, I knew it would be a grind but I did not realise just how tiring it would become," Young said. "People cannot appreciate that unless they have tried to play practically day in, day out for weeks at a time. It is

not the right way to produce a good England side."

"Mark Ramprakash is the best player I have come up against so far: he batted fantastically on a difficult pitch at Bristol. After him, the hardest opponents have all been Aussies. That reflects the strength of our game back home."

Asked to explain Gloucestershire's unexpected success — they lie second in the county championship table — he pointed out similarities between his adopted county and Tasmania. "People told me that performances did not always reflect our ability. It seems that everybody has moved up a cog or two, worked hard and taken the opportunities that have come along."

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## Pace puts Moody in batting league of his own

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss): Match abandoned. Worcestershire (2 pts). Kent (2)

KENT were fourth and Worcestershire sixth, before the drizzle turned into rain just after 3.30. The ground was crowded with that peculiarly intense audience this league inspires. The Sunday crowd watches every ball with the commitment usually reserved for the Stretford End at Manchester United. Neutrality, indeed impartiality, is not expected and hardly accepted.

It was fortuitous that the home element should be rewarded with one of those numerical footnotes that cricket promotes and statisticians love. In the course of his 26 runs, Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain, became the fastest player to 4,000 runs in the Sunday league, reaching this figure in 100 matches. Barry Richards, the previous fastest, reached that total in 1976 during his 100th match for Hampshire.

Moody, unaware of this distinction until it occurred, had the chivalrous good sense to say: "It's an honour to be associated with any record that bears the name of a player of the quality of Barry Richards."

He may have been casting his mind back to the ramshackle progress of the Worcestershire innings. Moody would have been caught at slip (had there been one) off Dean Headley in the third over. Tim Curtis, when 19, was dropped at deep square leg off Martin McCague's first ball; Curtis was run out, calling for a single, when Graeme Hick played no further than backward point. Nigel Liang the terminator.

Hick (0) could have been caught at gully, off McCague: when eight he was dropped at deep mid-wicket off McCague and could have been run out when nine.

After that Kent had to be grateful for the rain, for nothing is more certain than that Hick would have played them mercilessly. As it was, he produced one broadsword of a pull/sweep that brought only four runs when the power on show suggested at least 12.

## Rain saves Surrey as Hollioake celebrates Test call-up

By JOHN STERN

LORD'S (Surrey won toss): Match abandoned. Middlesex (2 pts). Surrey (2)

THE sight of Surrey's gold pennant, signifying their triumph in the Benson and Hedges Cup final here last month, fluttering above the visitors' dressing-room offered inspiration only to their hosts, whose form in the Axa Life League had hitherto been lamentable.

Middlesex, though, were unable to complete their third Sunday victory of the season because of rain. Aside from the Test call-up of Adam Hollioake, the Surrey captain, and, of course, his brother Ben — although England under-19 duty kept him away from Lord's and the attendant media scrum — this was a miserable day for Surrey men.

Their England players, in particular, suffered on a pitch that was used for Middlesex's NatWest quarter-final last week against Warwickshire. Having won the toss, Hollioake watched his side collapse to 12 for four and then 62 for seven.

Alec Stewart opened, as he will do at Trent Bridge, and was dismissed for a duck in the third over, caught at the wicket by David Nash. Graham Thorpe also made nought, cutting Angus Fraser to Mike Gatting at point. At least he can look forward to more Test cricket next week, unlike Mark Butcher, who gave Nash his second catch off the bowling of Jamie Hewitt. His frustration at both dismissal and omission manifested itself in him flicking the stump with his bat as he passed, an action that rightly displeased both umpires.

Chris Lewis brought a pleasing amount of application to his role and was unbeaten on 34 when the rain came after 23 overs with Surrey 74 for seven. Hollioake progressed into double figures but was bowled by a ball from Jacques Kallis who kept low. Jason Ratcliffe was caught behind off Tim Broomfield and Ian Ward followed the next ball.

## Lehmann's best paves the way for Yorkshire

By IVO TENNANT

HEADLEIGH (Northamptonshire won toss): Yorkshire (4 pts) beat Northamptonshire by 38 runs

YORKSHIRE have had to contend with numerous distractions down the years, but the counter-attraction of rugby league at Headingley during the summer has not been one of them.

So, they brought forward the start of this Axa Life League match by two hours and gained a larger crowd than usual. Darren Gough, who has a sore knee, did not take part in their victory over Northamptonshire but is expected to be fit enough to bowl today, and for England at Trent Bridge next week.

On a slow pitch of low bounce, Yorkshire deployed three spinners, Stump, Vaughan and Lehmann, to good effect. Indeed, the Australian, like Bevan, his compatriot and predecessor in this side, feels he can make quite a contribution other than with the bat. His figures of three for 43 were his best in any form of the game, achieved with what, even in Sunday cricket, was orthodox left-arm spin.

When Curran was in partnership with Bailey, adding 59, Northamptonshire did have a chance. They needed 94 off the last ten overs, which was not entirely out of the question. Almost inevitably, though, wickets fell when the run rate was not maintained.

Curran made 57 off 9 balls, with two fours and three sixes, before he drove a half-volley back to Lehmann. There had been a similar display of hitting earlier in the afternoon from McGrath, who struck four sixes, including two in one over from Taylor. When he was held well at long-off by Emburey, he had struck 63 off 51 balls.

There were runs, too, for White, whose half-century came from 55 balls and Byas, 42 off 42 balls. In the closing overs, Morris came in and struck six fours in his innings of 35. It was not a bad match, and quite a number of the crowd would have moved on, barbecues in tow, to shout for the Leeds Rhinos. Cricket and rugby league have not made for easy companions in the past, but yesterday there was quite a sporting day out for those who were interested.

## Lewis proves a thorn in Derbyshire's side

By JACK BAILEY

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Durham won toss): Durham (4 pts) beat Derbyshire by five wickets

THIS match ended a bleak few days for Derbyshire, a period of rare riches for Durham. If you want to send any of the Derbyshire team into a frenzy, just mention the name Jonathan Lewis. He followed his match-winning century on Saturday by steering his team to victory in this Axa Life League match yesterday.

Derbyshire's hopes had been raised when Speight and Boon were out in quick succession after adding 38 runs for the third wicket. Boon, untypically, chassied off the wicket on the wrong track to the wrong ball.

At 120 for four and chasing Derbyshire's 181, Durham were in danger. But Lewis, who is averaging nearly 60 in this competition, and the injured Roseberry, almost saw Durham home. Lewis was out with the scores level, but Durham won with 12 balls to spare. Roseberry lifted his Sunday league average for the season to 122 and the atmosphere at Chester-le-Street was close to ecstatic.

Derbyshire were without their high-flying Dominic Cork, laid low by a virus infection. It was another England all-rounder, Philip DeFreitas, their captain, who gave them a fighting chance of salvaging something from their week in the North East.

Although Rollins and later, Barnett, kept the score moving, they did so with difficulty as wickets continued to fall regularly. Bettis and Brown did most of the early damage, the pitch yielding the occasional dose of extravagant assistance — as when Barnett was torpedoed. There is no other word for it.

When Barnett left at 107 for five, DeFreitas took over. He plundered 19 from one over by Wood and reached 45 from 29 balls. For the first time in Derbyshire's innings, the bat had gained ascendancy.

Batting came more easily for Durham. Boon and Speight brought the game within Durham's grasp without much trouble. Had Boon not had his rush of blood, he, not Lewis, might have been there at the end and Lewis, for once, might have had to play second fiddle.

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THE TIMES MONDAY AUGUST 4 1997

SPORT 31

# Ormond's burst thwarts Essex leadership hopes

By BARNEY SPENDER

COLCHESTER (Leicestershire won toss); *Leicestershire (4pts) beat Essex by 35 runs*

ON A dark, dank day and in front of a packed crowd at Castle Park, Essex threw away a golden opportunity of taking over from Lancashire at the top of the Axa Life League when they slipped to an unlikely defeat at the hands of Leicestershire yesterday.

It was an unlikely result in the series that Leicestershire's total of 225 for nine looked a simple target for a powerful batting line-up on a good pitch. But for once, Essex threw away a solid start from Prichard and Stuart Law, and fell short despite brave efforts from Darren Robinson and Paul Grayson.

He blotted his copy book with some woeful bowling at the start of the Essex innings, three-overs costing 25 runs and one of the overs made up of ten deliveries, but, with the

bat, he breezed along to 21 before, attempting to drive Steve Andrew, he edged the ball into his stumps. In his next over, Andrew knocked over Well's middle stump and when he had Ben Smith caught in the deep by Grayson, in the 19th over, Leicestershire were struggling at 78 for three.

The situation had hardly improved when Whitaker was bowled by Grayson, as he tried to give himself room to cut, and Darren Stevens succumbed to Cowan, who had bowled an ineffective opening spell. Fortunately, Darren Maddy was not so generous with his wicket and with Jonathan Dakin set about repairing the damage in a six-wicket partnership worth 65 in eight overs.

Dakin, built like a second-row forward, although perhaps not quite as quick between the wickets, hit one massive straight six off Grayson which holed the roof of the scorebox while Maddy, more of a chunky scrum half, gathered his runs with inventive urgency. He struck Peter Such for a six to mid-wicket and a couple of balls later, completed his half-century, made from 44 deliveries.

When Dakin gave Such a return catch the innings again threatened to peter out but Maddy kept the board ticking over until he was bowled by Cowan for 75 in the penultimate over. He hit six fours and a six and faced 61 balls.

The Essex innings got off to a bright enough start as the openers put on 54 in nine overs but once James Ormond found his line and length the game shifted in Leicestershire's favour.

Ormond is not playing in the championship game because of a side strain, but he bowled with enough pace to trouble all the batsmen and, after Stuart Law had been dropped badly by Nixon early on, it was no surprise to see the 19-year-old rip out the three most dangerous Essex players. After bowling Law, he forced Nasser Hussain to hole out to mid-on and then had Prichard well taken at third man by Williamson.

Grayson and Robinson did their best to save the day against tight bowling and some fine ground fielding but Leicestershire refused to be denied their first win in Essex in any competition since 1980.

For the rest it was instantly forgettable as Glamorgan again left no one in any doubt about their priorities. They left out Wayne Younis and Steve Waugh with a view to bowling out Nottinghamshire today to extend their lead in the county championship before turning their thoughts to the NatWest Trophy semi-final against Essex.

In the event they made a decent enough start, Cottier

running out Welton from cover, Thomas claiming Walker leg-before and Butcher bowling Johnson.

The makeshift attack was then put to the sword by Astle, who is performing consistently as Nottinghamshire's overseas player, and Dowman, who put on 129 in only 20 overs for the fourth wicket.

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## Memorable day all round for Dowman

By PAT GIBSON

COLWYN BAY (Glamorgan won toss); *Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Glamorgan by 20 runs*

ONLY Matthew Dowman will have a lasting memory of a cold, grey afternoon at Rhos-on-Sea, because he was given a permanent reminder of the man-of-the-match award, a miniature crystal glass bat presented by a local company, after scoring 71, the top score in the Nottinghamshire innings, taking an important wicket with his medium-paced bowling and holding two catches as Glamorgan suffered their fourth successive defeat in the Axa Life League.

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The Times examines how the MacLaurin report is going to affect cricket at all levels

## Game-plan shows compromise as way forward



MacLaurin: committed

They will not know it for sure until the season has only a week to run, but for the clubs pursuing the county championship this year there is an appealing, additional incentive. Whoever wins will be the last in a distinguished line before the oldest domestic competition in the world reinvents itself in barely recognisable form.

In theory, no more than 20 people know the details of the strategic plan that is to be presented to the counties at Lord's tomorrow. In practice, it is thought that, if the proposals are endorsed on September 15, the championship will be split into three divisions as of next season.

As the divisions are apparently to be seen to seek equality and there will not, as yet, be promotion and relegation, it can be seen that the authors of the plan, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth and Tim Lamb, have fallen back on a somewhat curious compromise that will delight few, but will have the short-term virtue of alienating even fewer.

From the outset, Lord MacLaurin has been committed to change. This determination will extend, no doubt,

to his plans for the lower reaches of the game and his vision of a more seamless transition from recreational to professional cricket. Yet it is on what he proposes at the top level that he will be judged and the counties will cast their votes.

The theory that the championship could remain unaltered and that increased prize-money alone could cure its ills appalled him. "We cannot throw money at mediocrity," he has often said. So the championship, the shop window of his domestic refit, need to be snappier, shorter and more competitive, while remaining inoffensive to the dinosaurs that still rule the game. It was a devilishly difficult balancing act.

It is understood that the first obstacle towards acceptance of the package has already been overcome. Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), has gained the unanimous backing of the 16-man management board, a body that includes a number of county delegates, including the arch reactionary, Peter Edwards, of Essex.

The counties, which are to be

given six weeks to debate the recommendations, with, if required, further counselling from Lord MacLaurin and Lamb, will now seem churlish in the extreme if they reject it. I believe that they would also be risking the wrath of their players, who are committed to change and united in their desire to support the actions of a chairman to whom they have warmed.

The Professional Cricketers' Association, under its general secretary, David Graveney, has become more organised and more vocal. The players are aware that they possess the ultimate sanction of refusing to play if their employers persist with an obsolete structure. Militancy should not be ruled out if the cosy status quo.

It has been an exciting but unenviable task for Lord MacLaurin and Lamb to restructure the game radically enough to make a

difference but sensitively enough to win the vital backing of traditional county committees. An authentic two-tier championship remains the ideal and I hope its introduction has merely been delayed. The interim measure suffers from complexities and illogicalities, but it does achieve the right amount of cricket and climb to a finale of sorts.

When the speculation ends tomorrow, I expect the high-profile end of the plan to include this reformed and reduced championship of 14 games. The conference fixtures seem bizarre, in that no team will play the others in its own division, but it will culminate attractively in round-robin play-offs during September between the teams in comparable positions in the divisions. Prize-money, it seems, will be substantially increased, to probably more than £100,000 to the winners, to preserve the primacy of the competition and help to increase the

intensity of the cricket. It is also understood that one limited-overs competition will be disbanded and the remaining two will both take a new identity. The NatWest Trophy will be expanded to 60 teams and there is to be a 50-overs league, played in two divisions — this one with promotion and relegation.

This last competition, if approved, is unashamedly a marketing vehicle, a money-spinner to compensate for the acknowledged fact that championship cricket, in whatever form, will not fill grounds. The 50-overs league is intended to replace the Sunday league and will not, apparently, be confined to a particular day of the week. Rather, it will have the flexibility of the football fixture list, with scope for festivals and, perhaps, regular floodlit matches on Friday evenings.

I understand television executives, when sounded out, voice strong interest in this imaginative concept. The rest of us will be left to wonder if it was purely to appease the small-minded intransigence of many counties that a logical 16-

Letters, page 19  
ADRIAN SHERATT

## Village postman slogs Shipton closer to Lord's

The Cotswold village pubs were just emptying after lunch and rain was falling steadily on an otherwise idyllic scene as Eddie Rees wheeled in to deliver the first ball of the most important match of his life. His busy action climaxed in an expansive delivery stride and he fell flat on his face.

A twisted knee and a red face notwithstanding, Rees recovered to bowl four overs before hobbling off. The quarter-final of the National Village championships went on without him in the kind of relentlessly wet weather that would have sent professionals hurrying back to their hotels.

For the best part of three hours, the Welshmen of Miskin Manor tolerated these conditions, their flannels sopping and muddied like Llanelli rugby players in January, while Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire's champion on village side, amassed 28 for six. Shipton then fell honour bound to return the compliment and get soaked themselves.

Remarkably, several hundred stayed to watch, the Shiptonians ringing cowbells whenever a boundary was hit, the coachload from Miskin sampling the local brew. They sat on straw bales donated by a local farmer, or sheltered under the lime trees, and the atmosphere was determinedly jolly.

This was village cricket at its

Rural cricket displays its traditional charms as the game awaits

Lord MacLaurin's opus

best and Lord MacLaurin would not have disapproved. Throughout the compiling of his momentous blueprint, he has stressed a policy of no interference with what he calls "the fabric of our society". In other words, the village game.

There is, however, a narrowing distinction these days between the belt-and-braces village cricket of tradition and the stratum of club cricket at which Lord MacLaurin will be addressing a whole raft of proposals.

Tomorrow, he will recommend a new network of premier leagues, perhaps involving two-day matches interacting both with the county clubs above them and the feeder leagues beneath.

He will also ask clubs to consider excluding overseas players. It is estimated there are now up to 10,000 of them, which would be a preposterous figure even if they did not dominate games so often. Three years ago, Shipton played a league match against Leighton Buzzard and found themselves bowling at Matthew Elliott.

There were no foreigners playing yesterday and the

occasional was better for it. Shipton, although they do not pretend to be the focus of village life, do have a team of locals. Even Sam Mendes, the theatre director and their token celebrity, qualifies through his weekend cottage nearby.

The heroes of the win yesterday

actually live in the village. They also share the round

build beloved of those who

caricature the game at this

level. Jon Hartley, a surveyor

whose home is a six-hut from

the ground, made 75 and the

village postman, Jason Con-

stable, struck 30 from 11 balls

in six-and-out style.

Constable had taken part in an incongruous session of team calisthenics on the out-

field before play and the aping of professionals, until

recently alien to village cricket,

continued with bating helmets,

sliding stops in the field

and bottles of Gatorade rather

than pints of Hook Norton for

the fast bowler grazing be-

tween overs.

Every village club depends

on the likes of Elaine, and on

their equivalent of Anthony

Prior-Wandesforde. Shipton's

groundsmen and general fact-

orium. Earlier this year, the

willing APW, as he is known,

thought the idle majority were

taking advantage and went on

strike for a month. The club

was reduced to chaos.

Village cricket is essentially

make-do. Shipton have a set of

roll-on covers but they were

made by the secretary's father-

in-law in his village garage.

The roller was bought second-

hand, the sightscreens made by

members and, only last

week, the pavilion received a

lick of paint from the chair-

man's two sons.

It has always been this way

and, at this level, the MacLaurin report will change nothing.

The closest Shipton could

come to a brush with the

blueprint will be a game at

Lord's — and they are now just

one match away from the

village game's greatest prize.

ALAN LEE



A lonely walk nears its end for Macdonald, of Shipton



Jonathon Sale, the captain of Old Tonbridge, hits Richard Graham square on the off side at Vincent Square yesterday

## Final flourish allows Bradfield to reign

Well-schooled cricketers remain vital to continued future of the game at all levels, as proved by the Cricketer Cup

**F**or three miserable hours yesterday, as Bradfield Waifs and Old Tonbridgeans waited for the rain to clear, it seemed that the Cricketer Cup final at Roehampton would be a marvellous day out, but an inconclusive one. The weather improved, however, and Bradfield reached the 179 to retain the trophy for the old boys of public schools.

Bradfield College, captained by Mark Nicholas, of Hampshire, Sky Television and *The Daily Telegraph*, won the cup for the first time last year and did well to bowl out Tonbridge, who won the toss, for 178. Their opponents, whose most famous old boy, Sir Colin Cowdrey, has recently been ennobled as Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge, are the most successful team in the competition's 31-year history, having gathered seven victories.

Stuart Seymour, 22, who plays for Wokingham and occasionally for Berkshire, propelled Bradfield towards victory with 93 in 84 balls. A hundred seems to be just beyond him. In the semi-final he made 96 against Old Cliftonians.

Steve Bridgman, promoted to open the innings, shared a stand of 140 in 23 rollicking overs before he was out for 52. This batting, allied to some niggardly bowling and fine fielding, was the highlight of an excellent Bradfield performance.

At 38, Nicholas is the oldest member of the Bradfield team, which contradicts the belief that this is just a competition for middle-aged weekend loafers. Nick Denning, a bowler who left the Marlborough school this summer, was selected at the captain's behest. "Our cricket after lunch was superb," Nicholas said. "You won't see much better fielding than that this year from a county side, that's for sure."

The public schools, 32 of whom challenge annually for the Cricketer Cup, have long formed the bedrock of Eng-

lish cricket. They still do, to the occasional outrage of people who see them as repositories of funny accents and strange customs. But the world is more various than that and, as Nicholas pointed out as he waited for the rain to clear, "this competition is what the game is all about. It is giving me some of the most enjoyable days of my cricketing life."

In recent weeks' public school cricket has been the butt of many topical jokes, after the extensive news coverage given to two of the country's most famous establishments, Marlborough and Radley, broke off diplomatic relations after a match last month when both teams appeared to misunderstand the other's motives. "Time-wasters," accused Radley. "Sledgers," replied Marlborough with interest.

Peter Smith, the headmaster of Bradfield, who used to captain Oxfordshire in his

own playing days, is sad that the row was allowed to develop into a full-blown imbroglio.

The quality and competitiveness of sport at schools such as his, he believes, is now important, perhaps too important, for everybody — boys, parents and teachers. There are no league tables, as there are for academic results, but as he says, "every school likes to think it will win more than its share of matches."

He has not seen anything untoward on his own playing fields. "What the players tend to do is shout from third man, make too much noise between balls, and overreact at the fall of a wicket. But on the whole they behave themselves, and so do their opponents."

Nor has he sensed anything odd about the behaviour of visiting teams from overseas, despite recent allegations of verbal abuse in matches with English schools.

"In the last couple of years

we have entertained sides from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India, and I would say that, without exception, they conducted themselves in a highly disciplined way. To suggest that they are responsible for bringing in bad habits is not at all true."

Where standards of play are concerned he doesn't see a lot of good schoolboy bowlers. "You see a lot of good batsmen but you don't often see a bowler who makes you sit up and take notice. All schools cover their pitches these days and so there is little encouragement for the bowler to attack because they get clobbered through the covers all the time."

At the end, shortly before eight o'clock, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the president of MCC, presented Nicholas with the cup. *The Cricketer* is searching high and low for a new sponsor. Surely somebody, somewhere would welcome some involvement with this competition.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

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## RUGBY UNION

# Springboks unable to call Tune to account

Australia ..... 32  
 South Africa ..... 20

By DAVID HANDS  
 RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER criticism the beleaguered Australia coach, Greg Smith, has suffered, the fact remains that this season his team has lost only to New Zealand, France, England and, in the tri-nations tournament in Brisbane on Saturday, South Africa have been beaten by an Australia team in the throes of redevelopment.

That the process included in Brisbane the return at stand-off half of David Knox, whose first international appearance was 12 years ago, represents a degree of pragmatism on Smith's part after the loss of his preferred pivot, Tim Horan. Knox was, by common consent, the outstanding stand-off in the Super 12 competition but, believing that he had no international future, he took himself off to play for Natal last month.

After defeating the British Isles in the third international of their series and running New Zealand to a 35-32 margin, also at Ellis Park, the Springboks seemed to have found some form at last. But they left behind not only their formidable scrummaging power but also their cast-iron midfield defence, creating the same impression of a team at odds with itself that they displayed in losing to the Lions.

By contrast, Australia benefited from the return of Knox and their other enforced selection, that of Owen Finegan in the second row. Finegan made a reputation last year as a rough, tough flanker but was pressed into service at lock after the withdrawal of Garrik Morgan; he contributed to a solid scrum and in the loose, and, although Eales was left to shoulder virtually the entire lineout load, the

team was Ben Tune, the right wing. Tune's two tries in the second quarter not only carried Australia to a 26-10 interval lead but allowed him to display a quite unexpected strength in the tackle, as well as the speed that first brought him representative honours.

Within 17 minutes Australia had shuffled off the doleful memories of defeat by New Zealand in Melbourne a week earlier. Knox presented Larkham with the first try and Gregan's half-break gave Manu the chance to stretch through De Beer's tackle for the second.

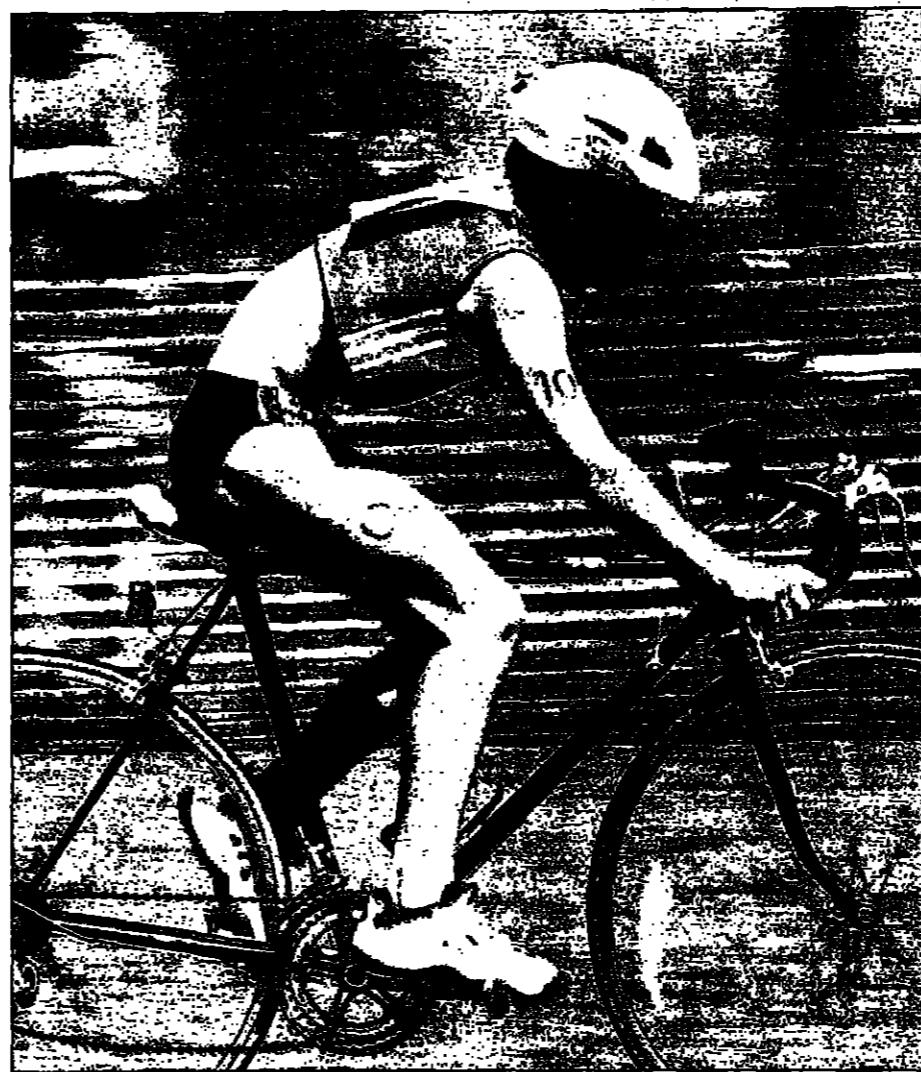
Gregan's deft pass gave Tune his first sight of the line and, though Du Randt stemmed the tide by charging over from a tapped penalty, Tune confirmed Australia's superiority with a splendid score on the stroke of half-time.

There was an uncharacteristic flow of errors by both sides throughout the game, but Knox's two penalty goals took Australia past their previous best total against South Africa - 28, also in Brisbane, in 1993.

SCORERS: Australia: Tries: Tune (2), Larkham, Manu. Conversions: Knox (3). Penalty goals: Knox (2). South Africa: Tries: De Beer, Andries, Du Randt. Conversions: De Beer. Manu gave: De Beer.

AUSTRALIA: S Larkham (Australian Captain), T Tunu (Captain), J Larkham, J W Reff (ACT), D J Knox (Natal), G M Gregan (ACT), R Harry (New South Wales), M A Eales (Queensland), J P du Randt (Free State), G Piesse (ACT), A Eolles (Queensland), D J Wilson (Queensland), D T Manu (NSW). Captain: G J Horan (NSW). Coach: G J Wilson (NSW) replaced by R T Robinson (ACT). Ref: Heath (78) replaced by A Blaies (NSW). 74. Harry replaced by Heath (79).

SOUTH AFRICA: R G Bennett (Border), A H Steyn (Free State), T van Tonder (Western Province), P D van Schalkwyk (Northern Transvaal), P W G Pienaar (Western Province), J H de Beer (Free State), G J Wilson (NSW), G J Wilson (Northern Transvaal), J P du Randt (Free State), A Eolles (Free State), D Theron (Cape), G J Wilson (Northern Transvaal), K Otto (Northern Transvaal), A G Verster (Free State), G H Tschermann (Natal), captain: Snyman (Northern Transvaal). Coach: Snyman. Captain: G J Wilson (Natal). Ref: G. Piesse (78) replaced by A C Garvey (Natal). 63. Van Schalkwyk replaced by H W Horan (Natal). Ref: 80. Referee: C J Hawke (New Zealand).



Running, cycling and swimming: the triathlon offers youngsters a variety in sporting disciplines with Olympic gold as the lure for the best

## Sporting drive weans Olympians of future

By DAVID POWELL

HENRIETTA and Oliver Freeman discovered triathlon purely by chance. Henrietta spotted a poster at school advertising a race, mentioned it to her mother and the family's curiosity was aroused. "We did not even know what triathlon was," Andrew Freeman, the children's father, said. "We turned up with a bike not knowing what was expected."

Five years on, Henrietta, 14, and Oliver, 11, are two of Britain's most accomplished young triathletes. Both recently won their fourth successive age-group title in the British Triathlon Association (BTA) national series. The BTA's task now is to make sure that the chance element is removed and that more potential young talents uncovered.

The drive has begun, with the help of a six-figure, one-year sponsorship package from the National Dairy Council, which Elaine Shaw, the BTA chief executive, confi-

dently expects to run for at least three years. It is aimed at the eight-to-15 age group and includes a Milk Award scheme. "For the first time, we have a package we can take to the schools to make it easy for them to get involved," Shaw said. "It means a school can say: 'We cannot organise a triathlon but we can prepare our children for them.'"

The three other component parts of the sponsorship are Come and Try It days, described by Shaw as "a travelling roadshow in 12 locations from Edinburgh to Exeter"; Milk Tristar, providing BTA junior membership; and the Milk Triathlon Series, a ten-race grand prix for youngsters in which their best four results of the season contribute towards a ranking.

Formerly the Mini-Tri Series, the Milk Series has benefited from increased promotion and prize support, encouraging participation with a different coloured T-shirt to go with each event. According to Shaw, race

## SPORT

### SCHOOL

organisers have reported a near-doubling of numbers to about 120 competitors at each venue.

Triathlon makes its Olympic debut in Sydney in 2000 and, as Shaw watched the Freemans on their way to victory in the fourth race of the series, staged by East Grinstead Triathlon Club at Ringmer Community College, she observed: "There are potential Olympians of the future here."

The series is held in public and community schools at locations all over the country.

"The swimming has to be done in a pool because, in children's triathlon, we do not want them in open water for safety reasons," Shaw said. "Cycling is on playing-fields or tarmac, never on open roads."

The Come and Try It days are held over short distances. "A taster for triathlon" is how Shaw described them. "We have between 20 and 30 clubs in the country that have genuine junior sections. We are going to areas where there is no junior club but there is a top senior club which has indicated a desire to establish one. Come and Try It will take triathlon into schools in a number of locations.

"They will give children a feel for combining the three disciplines into one event. They will not need to do any training. Lack of funds has prevented much serious progress in the past. This sponsorship will change the face of triathlon for young people."

Shaw is optimistic that there is more talent with the potential of the Freemans laying dormant. It was at Dulwich Prep School, Canning, near Ashford, Kent, that Henrietta had her first taste of triathlon. Oliver, at the time, was too young to compete: the BTA starting age is eight.

Their father, a former Great Britain under-16 swimmer, believes that, far from making demands too great on young bodies, triathlon is a benefit. "It is a wonderfully balanced sport," he said. "You are not overstraining one event. If you have a bad knee from running, for example, you can switch to swimming or cycling." Freeman added, however, that children and parents were "walking a tightrope" in finding the balance between other interests and training to standard.

"Henrietta has a lot of other interests and works hard at school," he said. "She does not want to give them up." The BTA will be doing its best to keep her interested.

## BOXING

## Rhodes aiming to strike jackpot

By SRIGUMAR SEN  
 BOXING CORRESPONDENT

RYAN RHODES, from Shiffield, the British light-middleweight champion, could prove to be one of the biggest money-earners in British boxing after Lennox Lewis next year.

If he lives up to the potential he has shown this year, he could even become as popular as Naseem Hamed, his stablemate and mentor.

Rhodes has not yet beaten anyone of great significance, but, at 20, he is the youngest since the Second World War to win a Lonsdale Belt outright and is almost certainly the hardest puncher in Britain pound for pound. He and his manager, Brendan Ingle, are confident that he will win a world title next year and go on to win titles at three different weights.

"Bring them all on," Rhodes said after dispatching Ed Griffin, an American welterweight, in two rounds in Barnsley on Saturday. Ingle predicted that Rhodes would beat Robin Reid, the World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion, and Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, by January or February.

But it is in the United States that Rhodes wants to make his name. Already his promoter, Frank Warren, has Terry Norris and Felix Trinidad, who is expected to move up to light-middleweight, in his sights.

A win over Norris or Trinidad could make Rhodes an instant attraction in the United States. Like Hamed, Rhodes is a showman and has a big following, but he is not arrogant and is personable outside the ring.

But first Warren would like to make a realistic appraisal of Rhodes's potential. That is why he intends to put him in with Ensey Bingham, of Manchester, a former British champion.

"Let's see how he gets on with Bingham, who can hit," Warren said. "If Rhodes can stand up to Bingham's blows, it would go a long way to clearing up doubts in some quarters about his chin and make him the complete fighter."

## SPEEDWAY

## Title chase pushes Nicholls in spotlight

SCOTT NICHOLLS, Ipswich's young England international, secured third place in the world under-21 championship on a wet track in the Czech Republic on Saturday night (Troy Howe writes).

Nicholls, 19, lost a run-off with Rafał Dobrucki, from Poland, for second place. The meeting was won by Jesper B Jensen, of Denmark, who rides for Wolverhampton in the Elite League. Jensen qualifies directly for the world championship grand prix series next year.

A third-place finish is one better than last year for Nicholls, who competed then with four broken bones in his left foot.

This year Nicholls, the sole British competitor, was one of the few riders who could consistently overtake at Mseno. Practice on Friday was cancelled because of heavy rain and the meeting was in doubt until the start. The top surface of dirt had to be removed from the track, making overtaking difficult.

Nicholls, one of the favourites after his semi-final win in Germany last month, finished third in his opening ride, but then dropped just two points to the opposition.

"It's good to come this far and get a third-place trophy, but I can't help feeling my poor first ride cost me a chance at the title," he said.

The Elite League attracted its first significant British returnee last week when Tony Rickardsson, world champion three years ago, agreed to ride the rest of the season for Ipswich Witches.

The move spell disappointment for Poole, who thought they had tied up a deal to secure the Swedish rider on loan for the rest of the season. Instead, Poole have acquired the Witches' exciting 22-year-old, Ben Howe.

Rickardsson, who rode for Ipswich from 1991 to 1993, and Howe will take to the track for their new clubs in the match between Poole and Ipswich on Wednesday.

## Magical moments that can last for a lifetime



Brian Clarke believes now is the ideal time to teach young people about angling

find an angler — impossible, anyway, to find a successful angler — who is not also interested in nature at large.

Long hours at the water while such fascinations grow also enable young people to meet others of like mind. The combination of interest in nature and friends who think in the same way tends to produce youngsters with less interest in, and less need of, street corners. I know of no research to prove it, but it is a fair bet that dedicated young anglers get into far less trouble than their non-fishing contemporaries. Float-watching and burglary, fish-watching and violence simply do not mix.

This is one of the reasons why the Metropolitan Police, among other organisations, tries to interest young people in angling — and why some forward-looking schools do likewise.

Once time has been committed, the remaining essential is to choose the right place to start. Children being children, early success is vital — but it should be modest success, an earned reward for the day spent, not a bagful that will make everything look easy. Every tackle dealer knows of this need and will, so to speak, have a few such places up his sleeve.

Going fishing with a child for the first time or two is a wonderful thing. For the very young, so much happens in the mind. Logic has no basis and cannot intervene. Experience has not yet cautioned or begun to scale down. There are probabilities, not possibilities, near-certainties and not likelihoods. Down there, close by the roots or out in the middle, under the reflections of the trees and the clouds, anything might swim.

To be with a child when he or she catches the first fish is magical. The float bobs, water draws down. Time slows and stops. Shy creatures show themselves and share their secrets. It is impossible to

not actually shake to a young heart's pounding. A first fish, no matter how small, is always huge because it is magnified by wonder. The cast needs to be on hand to go "click".

All this, of course, is mere beginning. Some, the temperamentally unsuited, will fall away. Many will not. For those who want to go farther, there is a lifetime of options ahead. The stages are well-known: once some fish have been caught, the need to catch lots of fish takes in; once lots of fish have been caught, big fish become the goal; once the fascination of size has been assuaged, difficult fish — not necessarily big fish, but fish nobody else can catch — become the challenge.

Naturally, not all who stay on go the whole way or the same way. Most will fish forever content to catch whatever comes along. Others will get stuck on always wanting to catch a lot. For pretty well all, responsibilities and other distractions at some time intrude. Yet always, once those early seeds have been sown, angling is there to escape to or come back to. Specialisation — fly-fishing or bait fishing, coarse fishing or game — is one choice usually made. There are techniques to be learnt and tactics to be mastered. The game-fisher has fly-tying to fill his winter evenings. Everyone has the literature, the amazing literature that goes back for 500 years, to explore and enrich them. Through it all, because of its nature, fishing encourages the angler to think and philosophise, to order life or re-order it, to consider his own place on the turning wheel of time.

So there is much more to fishing than catching fish. The summer holidays are here and a great gift awaits the young. As Walt Whitman would have urged: seize the day.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

## AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

## Win a trip to Barbados with our Ashes game

The Times and Sporting Index give you the chance to win a 10-day trip for two to Barbados to see the West Indies play, in our exclusive Ashes Test competition. The prize will go to the player who scores the most points over the six match series. There are also prizes for individual Tests.

Today we offer a pair of tickets to the sixth Test at The Oval.

The game allows you to challenge our cricket experts.

Success or failure is based not just on being right or wrong,

but on how right or wrong you are.

## HOW IT WORKS

Printed below are five predictions about the number of runs which will be made at the fifth Test at Trent Bridge. You must decide whether the individual or team will score more or fewer than the number we state and back your judgment by placing a bet of between 20 and 100 points for each question. You must answer all five questions and you have a total budget of 200 points which you must not exceed and which must be divided between your five stakes. Then call our entry line below before midnight on Wednesday. Follow the instructions on the line. To help you keep a record of your entry, use the form below. Results for the line.



## SPORTING INDEX

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 Sky Sports Test page 361

No stake

100 points needed

fourth Test, with our predictions in brackets, are: John Crawley made 74 runs (70); Steve Waugh made 4 runs (90); the first innings score for the team batting first was 172 (330); Shane Warne conceded 55 runs (100); and the highest Australian batting partnership for any wicket was 268 (130).

To check your score take the result for each question.

Calculate how many runs you were right or wrong by:

multiply the difference by your stake and the answer is how much you won or lost. For example, John Crawley made 74 runs (70); if you went more than 70 you win 4 times your stake (74 minus 70); if you went less, you lose 4 times your stake.

You can also check your position on our leaderboard in the race for our star prize. If you have entered for all four tests so far you can find your total score in the competition to date by calling 0891 814 806 and inputting your 10-digit PIN. Calls cost 50p per minute. N Wallbridge of Nottingham wins a pair of tickets to the fifth Test at Trent Bridge for scoring 23,860 points in the fourth Test.

\*The default value is applied only where the player is not selected. Each country must complete one innings, otherwise all bets are off, and the prize fund is rolled forward to the next test. In the event of a tie the winner will be selected at random from all correct entries. Normal TNL rules apply.

TO ENTER CALL 0891 665 597

144 900 100 380 p.m. UK, 11.30 a.m. 12.30 a.m. 1.30 a.m. 2.30 a.m. 3.30 a.m. 4.30 a.m. 5.30 a.m. 6.30 a.m. 7.30 a.m. 8.30 a.m. 9.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 11.30 a.m. 12.30 a.m. 1.30 a.m. 2.30 a.m. 3.30 a.m. 4.30 a.m. 5.30 a.m. 6.30 a.m. 7.30 a.m. 8.30 a.m. 9.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 11.30 a.m. 12.30 a.m. 1



GOLF: HAEggman DELIGHTS HOME CROWD WITH IMPRESSIVE VICTORY IN VOLVO SCANDINAVIAN MASTERS

# Ryder Cup place beckons for Garrido

FROM MEL WEBB IN MALMO

JOAKIM HAEggman, one of the forgotten men, strolled to victory in the Volvo Scandinavian Masters yesterday, but it was what went on behind him that concentrated the mind and overthrew the calculators. There is nothing more important in European golf at the moment than the Ryder Cup, and in the greater scheme of things, Haeeggman's moment of triumph caused only the smallest of ripples.

Haeeggman won with a closing round of 69 and a total of 270, 18 under par, and walked off the final green to the wild

GB and Ireland stated

1. C. Montenegro 642-230-72-70 = 210  
2. Clark 584-390-65-73 = 212  
3. S. Johnson 637-387-70-73 = 217  
4. L. Johnson 637-387-70-73 = 217  
5. S. Johnson 637-387-70-73 = 217  
6. D. McIlroy 637-387-70-73 = 217  
7. S. Johnson 637-387-70-73 = 217  
8. A. García 637-387-70-73 = 217  
9. G. García 637-387-70-73 = 217  
10. J. Garrido 637-387-70-73 = 217  
11. J. Garrido 637-387-70-73 = 217  
12. J. M. González 637-387-70-73 = 217  
13. P. Berndsen 637-387-70-73 = 217  
14. J. Garrido 637-387-70-73 = 217  
15. S. Torrance 637-387-70-73 = 217

applause of his compatriots. All very satisfactory from a Swedish point of view, he doubt about it, but of more far-reaching importance was the result produced by the man immediately astern.

More than once last year Ignacio Garrido claimed with some confidence that he would be in the Ryder Cup team. This son of a Ryder Cup-playing father has self-effacingly diluted his remarks more than somewhat this season, but by finishing second, four shots behind Haeeggman, he leapt from

sixteenth to tenth in the Ryder Cup points table. Suddenly, he could find it within himself to give a small-toon on his own trumpet again, if not to let rip with a full-blooded fanfare.

"I think I'll probably make it now," he said. "You cannot imagine what a change there has been in me since I won the German Open. I now feel more able to take the pressure when it comes. I haven't been expecting to make the team, and I won't be disappointed if I don't. So I don't feel at all nervous about it. If I continue to play well, I am close enough now to make it with a couple of decent top-20 places."

The Labour game that is taking place in the lower positions around the top ten of the Cup qualifying list is becoming ever more hectic as players climb up small ladders and slide down rather larger snakes. So it will continue for the next four weeks; there will be tension, pressure and more tension before the deadline is reached at the end of the BMW Open, which finishes on the last day of the month.

Garrido's move here was a

dramatic one, as he overtook José María Olazábal, who had had a low-key tournament, winning 14,950 for a share of 38th place.

Padraig Harrington, who won £24,375 for joint sixth, stayed eleven in the qualifying table, but pushed Olazábal down to twelfth place.

Garrido's performance will no doubt bring a smile to the lips of Severiano Ballesteros, yet, at the same time give him a cruel reminder of the passing years. Ballesteros played with Garrido's father, Antonio, in the first Europe Ryder



Haeggman cherishes the Scandinavian Masters trophy after completing his four-stroke victory in Sweden yesterday

Cup team in 1979 and the Garrido are on the brink of becoming only the second father and son to play in the competition — Percy and Peter Alliss were the first.

Ballesteros' happiness for his old partner will be tem-

pered, however, by Olazábal's relegation. Olazábal still has time to earn his way into the team — he is playing in three of the last four ranking events — but if he does not, Ballesteros will have the invidious task of leaving out Olazábal, and, whisper it not, is now

Nick Faldo or Jesper Parnevik out. Who'd be a captain?

Meanwhile, Haeeggman, himself a Ryder Cup player in 1993, produced some stunning golf for the fourth day running. He was a fine winner and, whisper it not, is now

seventeenth in the Ryder Cup list, rising from 41st.

He thinks of getting in? "Amazingly, yes, I have a chance now," he said. He has, too; but that's another story.

Leading scores, page 37

## Relaxed Robbins sets the challenge

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES  
IN OAKVILLE,  
ONTARIO

KELLY ROBBINS, the leading American on the US money-list, behind Annika Sorenstam and Karrie Webb, was the player to beat in the last round of the Du Maurier Classic at Glen Abbey yesterday.

The 27-year-old from Michigan, with an easy-going attitude, was ten under par after 54 holes, one shot ahead of Brandie Burton and Jillian, fellow Americans.

Lisette Neumann, the Swede who must feel she is owed this title after finishing third in 1994, second in 1995, and sixth last year, was tied for fourth place with Rosie Jones, an American; two shots behind Robbins. Betsy King, winner of the Nabisco Dinah

Shore this season, was in the group on 22 and Webb, the young Australian who was US No 1 last year, was lurking on 21.

Neumann, US women's Open champion in 1988, is armed with a new putter and a new, softer ball, and her touch on the greens has reflected the confidence the change has given her. Not that putting was a weakness beforehand. It was second in the putting statistics, averaging 29.1m, just behind Burton on 29.07.

The Swedish challenge was also being sustained by the remarkable Helen Alfredson, who recovered from a mediocre opening 75 with rounds of 76 and 69, to share 11th place on 214. At the end of last year Alfredsson underwent a long, arduous operation and was required to

spend several weeks lying on her stomach afterwards, not an easy task for one of life's movers and shakers.

She had to learn how to walk properly again after years of compensating for the old cycling injury that was at the root of the trouble and her surgeon expected her to be back competing round about June, if things went well. Alfredsson, typically contrary, was back in action full-time in March, learning how to swing again and mixing awful rounds and horrendous shots with flashes of brilliance.

The Swedish challenge, while strong, lacked Sorenstam, the world No 1, whose metronomic consistency is the antithesis of Alfredsson's erratic style. For the second successive major championship, Sorenstam underwent a long, arduous operation and was required to

missed the cut as did Alison Nicholas, the US women's Open champion, unable to get her game in gear after two weeks of interviews and congratulations.

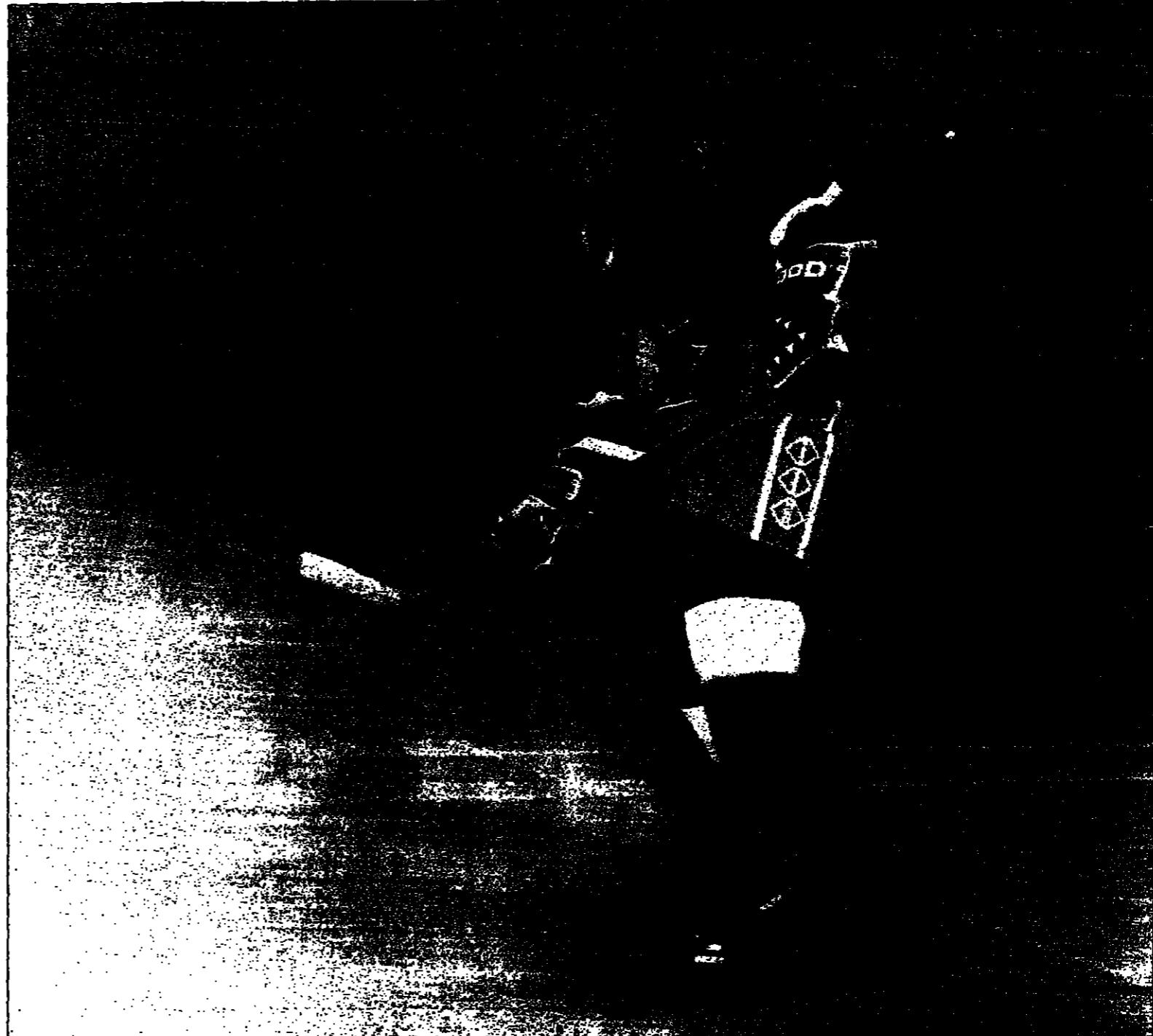
Laura Davies, the defending champion, was out of sorts, suffering the cumulative strain of a testing schedule. She looked pained at the start of her final round and dropped shots at the second and third holes before picking up with birdies at the fourth and fifth, to be three under par.

LEADER: BATH THREE ROUNDS (US unless stated): 1. K. Robbins 71, 65, 73 = 210; 2. B. Burton 69, 75, 66; J. Innes 70, 69, 71; 3. R. Jones 68, 71, 71; L. Neumann 69, 67, 71 = 215; 4. H. Alfredson 70, 69, 72 = 211; 5. B. King 71, 71, 70; E. King 71, 69, 72; 6. K. Webb 71, 72, 72; T. Burton 68, 72, 73; 7. 214; 8. H. Albersen 75; 75, 70, 69, 72 = 220; 9. L. Davies 73, 70, 73; 10. C. Stenström 74; 11. R. Jones 73, 72, 73 = 218; 12. C. Sorenstam (Swed) 76, 72, 74 = 220; 13. S. Burton 74; 14. B. Burton 73, 72, 73 = 218; 15. C. Sorenstam (Swed) 76, 72, 74 = 220; 16. S. Burton 74; 17. A. Nicholas 74; 18. L. Davies 74; 19. B. King 74; 20. H. Alfredson 74; 21. H. Neumann 74; 22. L. Davies 74; 23. B. King 74; 24. H. Alfredson 74; 25. L. Davies 74; 26. B. King 74; 27. H. Neumann 74; 28. B. King 74; 29. H. Alfredson 74; 30. L. Davies 74; 31. B. King 74; 32. H. Neumann 74; 33. B. King 74; 34. H. Alfredson 74; 35. L. Davies 74; 36. B. King 74; 37. H. Neumann 74; 38. B. King 74; 39. H. Alfredson 74; 40. L. Davies 74; 41. B. King 74; 42. H. Neumann 74; 43. L. Davies 74; 44. B. King 74; 45. H. Alfredson 74; 46. L. Davies 74; 47. B. King 74; 48. H. Neumann 74; 49. L. Davies 74; 50. B. King 74; 51. H. Alfredson 74; 52. L. Davies 74; 53. B. King 74; 54. H. Neumann 74; 55. L. Davies 74; 56. B. King 74; 57. H. Alfredson 74; 58. L. Davies 74; 59. B. King 74; 60. H. Neumann 74; 61. L. Davies 74; 62. B. King 74; 63. H. Alfredson 74; 64. L. Davies 74; 65. B. King 74; 66. H. Neumann 74; 67. L. Davies 74; 68. B. King 74; 69. H. Alfredson 74; 70. L. Davies 74; 71. B. King 74; 72. H. Neumann 74; 73. L. Davies 74; 74. B. King 74; 75. H. Alfredson 74; 76. L. Davies 74; 77. B. King 74; 78. H. Neumann 74; 79. L. Davies 74; 80. B. King 74; 81. H. Alfredson 74; 82. L. Davies 74; 83. B. King 74; 84. H. Neumann 74; 85. L. Davies 74; 86. B. King 74; 87. H. Alfredson 74; 88. L. Davies 74; 89. B. King 74; 90. H. Neumann 74; 91. L. Davies 74; 92. B. King 74; 93. H. Alfredson 74; 94. L. Davies 74; 95. B. 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Skater hockey is Britain's fastest-growing sport. Justin Penrose reports on the game played at breakneck speed



The equipment for skater hockey is expensive if you want to become seriously involved



Give it some stick: four outfield players and a goalkeeper are on the pitch at any one time. Unlimited substitutions are allowed

**T**he thrill of scoring a goal, playing a great shot or taking a wicket — there is no experience to rival an adrenalin-pumping action sport.

However, for all the excitement that these physical pastimes generate, it is difficult to name many sports that do not lapses into a leisurely pace at some time during a match. It could be argued that complete all-action sports are uncommon at any level. However, like ice hockey, skater hockey is one of the few sports in which the thrill and excitement never slows.

Skater hockey is Britain's fastest-growing sport. Formerly known as street hockey, it allows mixed teams to compete at breakneck speed.

Played on a traditional quad or the quicker in-line skates, with a ball rather than a puck, the game has two halves of 20 minutes. Four outfield players

and a goalkeeper are on the pitch at any one time and unlimited substitutions are allowed.

When I joined the Pine Grove Pythons for a training session at the Pine Grove Country Club in Sheffield, the members of the team, aged 14 to 17, made the art of gliding around look easy enough to persuade me that learning to skate would not be all that difficult.

However, after I had tum-



bled to the floor several times, I marvelled at the skill of these skaters. "To play in a match, it's not possible just to turn up and say, 'I fancy having a game of that,'" Gordon Inglis, head of coaching at the British Skater Hockey Association (BSHA), says. "If you are not a competent skater and you haven't the kit, then you can't be crashing into each other. It's a matter of safety."

Most young people get into the sport by playing "pick-up" games in car parks, playgrounds or the street. People are attracted to the sport by watching ice hockey. However, to play the game on ice involves a huge outlay for equipment. All that is needed for a "pick-up" game is a stick and a ball and skates.

Andrew Yearley, 15, a founding member of the Pythons, says: "You have to buy a lot of kit if you want to play ice

hockey, but you can play on the street for a few pounds. We started in the playground at school, but after about a year, as we became more skilled on the skates, we wanted to play against other opposition."

After discovering the thrill of skater hockey in streets, many participants are contacting the BSHA to join regional leagues. Stella van der Geyten, the BSHA's general secretary, says: "The interest in the sport has exploded over the past couple of years. We now have regional associations in every area, which is something that has never happened before."

Though the sport is growing rapidly, the problem for many is the cost of getting the equipment and padding necessary to play in the leagues. Because it is a physical contact sport, protective clothing is essential. The ball is solid

plastic and as hard as a cricket ball.

Mr Inglis comments: "The kit is necessary. Without it, it is not possible — for safety reasons — to participate in games against each other. It's up to people if they want to have a knockout on the car park, but it is a risk."

"When one of our lads winds up for a shot I don't wonder, 'Oh no, who's that going to hit?' because I know that they are all fully kitted."

This does not prohibit those who lack all the equipment from getting involved. Anthony Toner, father of one of the Pythons, says: "Two years ago there weren't any sessions with a BSHA-recognised coach. These sessions are becoming more common as the sport grows."

Anthony Toner, father of one of the Pythons, says: "Two years ago there weren't any sessions with a BSHA-recognised coach. These sessions are becoming more common as the sport grows."

Anthony Toner, father of one of the Pythons, says: "Two years ago there weren't any sessions with a BSHA-recognised coach. These sessions are becoming more common as the sport grows."

Indeed, with the growing interest in skating, it is perhaps inevitable that the sport will grow accordingly. The thrill of skater hockey is easy to see on the faces of the enthusiastic young players.

As an action sport, it is perhaps rivalled only by ice hockey. The more accessible nature of skater hockey suggests, however, that the game is bound to go from strength to strength.



LIKE any sport involving a large amount of equipment, skater hockey is expensive if you want to become seriously involved. However, if you are content to play simple "pick up" games on the street or in car parks, then the cost is far lower.

In the interests of safety, the best way to play the game is to get in touch with your local skater hockey association, which will put you in

contact with a recognised coach. The cost of the initial outlay depends on the level you want to reach. You can buy skates for as little as £60, but the cheapest stick is £12.

However, the amount of padding that is necessary for complete safety is phenomenal. The amount of kit required to take part in a league is likely to be more than £200.

The best plan is to go to a training

session and learn the skills while building up your equipment.

If cost is a big worry, then the goalkeeper position is best avoided. Extra padding inflates the cost of this equipment to at least £500.

• Further information: Stella van der Geyten, general secretary, British Skater Hockey Association, Grindinham, Chiddingly Road, Horam, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 0JH.

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Compromise open to question

From Mr J. M. Lascire, Sweetinburgh

Sir, it is difficult to see how the compromise between the Premier League and Professional Footballers' Association (report, July 28) is going to achieve the aim of bringing the English game into line with the Bosman ruling, albeit there must have been a measure of progress if it is now recognised that Bosman applies to internal transfers and not just trans-national deals.

Atherton's obsession with survival and not losing makes him a cerebral loser. We have picked unimaginative teams, so nobody should be remotely interested in taking prisoners.

Surely at this stage in the campaign it makes no sense at all to destroy the confidence of your own team. They should be given wholehearted support to the end.

The solution is as before. Relieve Atherton of the captaincy, open with Stewart, reinstate Russell, promote those batsmen with the self-belief and the technique to play each ball on its merit. To see Warne played from the crease is a sad reflection of the players' lack of assertiveness.

Make either Stewart or Adam Hollioake captain and empower him to pick those he knows have the capability to perform on the world stage, thereby making every cricketer lover proud of their team.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER THOMAS,  
9 Carlton Street,  
Rose Bay,  
NSW 2029, Australia.

From Mr Christopher Downs, Christopher Downs, CHURCHILL, Brook Lane, Billesdon, Leicestershire.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER DOWNS.



## Legal aid can be relevant to forum

**Connelly v RTZ Corporation plc and Another**

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[Speeches July 24]

On its true construction, section 33(1)(b) of the Legal Aid Act 1988 did not mean that on an application for a stay of proceedings on the principle of forum non conveniens the fact that the plaintiff was in receipt of legal aid in England should be disregarded.

In addition, the availability of financial assistance, whether legal aid or a *conditional fee* agreement, coupled with its non-availability in the more appropriate forum might conceivably be a relevant factor when deciding whether or not to stay the English proceedings.

The House of Lords held:

(i) in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Edward Connolly, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Wall and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas) [1996] QB 361 upholding a decision of Sir John Wood sitting as a High Court judge that the plaintiff's action against the defendants, RTZ Corporation plc and RTZ Overseas Services Ltd, should not stay as consideration of the availability of legal aid if the action was litigated in England was inconsistent with section 33(1)(b) of the 1988 Act and Namibia was the more appropriate forum for the hearing; and

(ii) in dismissing an appeal by the defendants against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward) to lift the stay after the plaintiff undertook not to apply for legal aid and that his solicitors would *continue* to act for him under a conditional fee agreement.

Mr Michael Burton, QC, Mr Graham Read and Ms Anna Thomas for the plaintiff; Mr Sydney Kentridge, QC, Mr Brian

Doctor and Mr Charles Gibson for the defendants.

**LORD GOFF** said that the suggestion was that section 33(1)(b) had the effect that, in the case of an application for a stay of proceedings on the principle of forum non conveniens, the fact that the plaintiff was in receipt of legal aid in this country could not be taken into account because the subsection provided that the *receipt of legal aid* shall not affect the principles on which the discretion of any court or tribunal is normally exercised.

For good measure, if section 33(1)(b) had that effect, that would lead to the extraordinary result that conditional fee arrangements could be taken into account in that context but not the availability of legal aid.

His Lordship found it surprising that the subsection should have that effect. It was understandable that, in matters arising in the course of legal proceedings in this country, the fact that one party was in receipt of legal aid should not be allowed to distort the legal process.

But, when it came to an application by the other party to stay proceedings brought in this country by a legally aided plaintiff on the ground of forum non conveniens, it was difficult to see why the fact that the plaintiff was legally aided, which would in the circumstances be a relevant factor to be taken into account on the application should be excluded.

In such circumstances it was the exclusion of that fact, rather than its inclusion, which would distort the legal process.

His Lordship was, however, satisfied that the subsection was never intended to apply in the case of applications for a stay on the ground of forum non conveniens.

In such a case the question was whether "the court was satisfied that there was some other tribunal, having competent jurisdiction in which the case might be tried more suitably for the interests of all the parties for the ends of justice"; see *Sim v Robison* [1982] 19 R 665, 668.

It would be strange indeed if the application of so broad a principle of justice should be artificially curtailed by section 33(1)(b) of the

1988 Act so that the receipt by the plaintiff of legal aid was automatically excluded from the range of relevant considerations.

Certainly the policy underlying the subsection provided for explanation, still less justification, for so curtailing it. On its true construction the subsection did not have such effect.

For good measure, if section 33(1)(b) had that effect, that would lead to the extraordinary result that conditional fee arrangements could be taken into account in that context but not the availability of legal aid.

Accordingly, the question arising on the two appeals could be considered simply on the basis of the principles applicable in cases of forum non conveniens, in relation to the availability of either legal aid or of conditional fee arrangements.

It was accepted that the application principles were to be found in the decision of the House of Lords in *Splendore Maritime Corporation v Consolers Ltd* [1987] AC 460 drawn from the judgment of Lord Kinnear in *Sim v Robison*.

It was accepted by the plaintiff that the defendants had discharged the burden on them at the first stage of establishing that Namibia was the jurisdiction with which the action had the closest connection with the effect that *prima facie* a stay should be granted.

The crucial question arose, therefore, whether a stay would nevertheless be refused because justice so required on the grounds that the plaintiff could not proceed with the trial without financial assistance and that, whereas no such assistance was available in Namibia, it was available in England.

A general principle could be derived which was that if a clearly more appropriate forum overseas had been identified, generally speaking the plaintiff would have to take that forum as he found it, even if it was in certain respects less

advantageous to him than the English forum. He might for example have to accept lower damages or do without the more generous English system of discovery.

The starting position was, therefore, that at least as a general rule, the court would not refuse to grant a stay simply because the plaintiff had shown that no financial assistance would be available to him in the appropriate forum, whereas such financial assistance would be available to him in England.

For good measure, if section 33(1)(b) had that effect, that would lead to the extraordinary result that conditional fee arrangements could be taken into account in that context but not the availability of legal aid.

Even so, the availability of financial assistance in this country, coupled with its non-availability in the appropriate forum might exceptionally be a relevant factor in that context.

The question, however, remained whether the plaintiff could establish that substantial justice would not be done in the particular circumstances if the plaintiff had to proceed in the appropriate forum where no financial assistance was available.

That was in effect what was urged in the present case. There were two reasons for that. The first was that there was no practical possibility of the issues which arose in the case being tried without the plaintiff having the benefit of professional legal assistance and the second was that his case could not be developed before a court without evidence from expert scientific witnesses. It was not in dispute that in those circumstances the case could not be tried in Namibia. The presence of the defendant in the jurisdiction was a neutral factor.

His Lordship was satisfied that this was a case in which, having regard to the nature of the litigation, substantial justice could not be done in the appropriate forum but could be done in the jurisdiction where resources were available.

If the position had been that the plaintiff was seeking to take advantage of financial assistance available here to obtain a more expensive presentation of his case

rather than a more rudimentary presentation in the appropriate forum, it might well have been necessary to take a different view.

Lord Lloyd, Lord Hope and Lord Clyde agreed.

**LORD HOFFMANN**, agreeing on the construction of section 33(1)(b) but dissenting on the application of the principles stated in *Splendore*, said the existence of neither legal aid nor a conditional fee agreement was sufficient to displace the *prima facie* conclusion that Namibia was the appropriate forum for a trial of the case.

The starting position was, therefore, that at least as a general rule, the court would not refuse to grant a stay simply because the plaintiff had shown that no financial assistance would be available to him in the appropriate forum, whereas such financial assistance would be available to him in England.

Even so, the availability of

## Employer not liable for employee's fraud

Court of Appeal

THE TIMES MONDAY AUGUST 4 1997

Mr Pillai was acting in the course of his employment.

The first and fifth propositions were not in dispute. His Lordship found the second and third to be made out and accepted the fourth.

It followed that if Mr Pillai was a joint tortfeasor in the sort of deceit, he would be liable to the bank to make good its losses on the valuable forgeries. But his Lordship did not agree that those propositions were sufficient to make ECGD vicariously liable to the bank for Mr Pillai's act.

The question could be posed thus: Was A became liable in B assuming tortfeasor with C in the tort ordered practised by C on B, on the basis that A and C had a common design to defraud B, and A provided assistance to C pursuant to and in furtherance of the common design, did D, A's employer, become vicariously liable to B, simply because the act of assistance, which was not itself the deceit, was in the course of A's employment with D?

Mr Smith was unable to cite any authority for the proposition that D was liable. *And in principle* it seemed that D was not liable if D was not in the course of A's employment with D?

A was vicariously liable for C's deceit, because in effect he was a conspirator and was therefore liable for the actions of the other conspirators. He was therefore in the position as if he had himself deceived B. D was only liable to B if the tort, which consisted of the deceit, was in the course of A's employment, that is to say within his actual or ostensible authority.

If Mr Pillai had in fact personally deceived the bank by putting forward forged documents as genuine, that would not have been within his actual or ostensible authority.

The tort giving rise to the civil liability to the bank was the deceit. That was not practised in the course of Mr Pillai's employment.

The case nearest to the present was *Armagas Ltd v Mundogas SA* [1986] AC 771 where the House of Lords made it clear that the rules relating to vicarious liability for the dishonest acts of a servant differed from those relating to acts of negligence and trespass.

It did not avail the bank that Mr Pillai was authorised to issue the guarantees which set the scene for Mr Pillai's deceit. ECGD was not vicariously liable for Mr Pillai's tort.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Thorpe delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Clyde & Co.

## Settling application for wasted costs order

**Manzaniia Ltd v Corton Property and Investments Ltd and Others**

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Morris

Judgment July 1

Where a wasted costs application against counsel and solicitors was settled, a succinct written statement could be placed before the court to deal with matters relevant to the reputations of the lawyers which, as a result of the settlement, would otherwise not be brought in the court's attention.

The Court of Appeal so held following the settlement of an application by the fourth defendant, Hollowell Landau, for a wasted costs order to be made against junior counsel and the solicitors who had acted for the plaintiff, Manzaniia Ltd, in proceedings for breach of contract. An application for a wasted costs order against leading counsel was withdrawn.

Mr Rupert Jackson, QC and Mr Mark Lomas for junior counsel;

Mr Guy Mansfield, QC, for the solicitors; Mr John Hurme, solicitor, for leading counsel.

**THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS** said that the parties had resolved the question of the action which should be taken in relation to wasted costs between themselves and, quite properly, the court had been informed in advance of the agreement which had been reached.

Naturally, where a court had required the lawyers involved in a case to show cause why a wasted costs order should not be made against them, the lawyers were concerned as to the effect of that order upon their professional reputations.

It sometimes happened that they had a full explanation of their conduct which would vindicate their position entirely, but they were inhibited from putting that before the courts when questions of costs were concerned because of their duties to their clients and questions of privilege which could arise as a result of those duties.

The parties, having considered the position further, had accepted that the need to make a statement in open court, probably, in the majority of cases, would not arise.

They had suggested that it would suffice, where a settlement

was reached, if it was acknowledged that it was appropriate that a statement explaining what had happened so far as the lawyers were concerned was submitted to the court in writing, so that it could be transmitted to the judiciary who had dealt with the wasted costs issues at an earlier stage.

The advantage of that approach was that it would avoid the parties incurring the expense of having to appear before the court. It would also save the court's time.

The circumstances in which a wasted costs order might be appropriate could vary considerably. It was therefore difficult to anticipate what would be the appropriate practice in all cases involving issues as to wasted costs which were compromised. However, it was into unnecessary detail.

It would also be desirable that, wherever possible, the statement was agreed by the other parties. Where no agreement was possible, however, the position of the other parties could be protected by their also being allowed to submit an equally short statement in response to that of the initiator of the procedure.

The existence of the practice should encourage settlement which was to be much desired. It also met the real need which lawyers might have in those

circumstances because of the disciplinary flavour of the wasted costs jurisdiction.

In His Lordship's judgment, the court should be prepared to accept a written statement to be placed before the court, so that it could be transmitted to the judiciary who had previously been involved, without counsel or other lawyers having to attend, and as long as it was first produced to the other parties and they raised no objection to it being submitted. The statement should be short and succinct and not one which went into unnecessary detail.

It would also be desirable that, wherever possible, the statement was agreed by the other parties. Where no agreement was possible, however, the position of the other parties could be protected by their also being allowed to submit an equally short statement in response to that of the initiator of the procedure.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in granting the application of James Betteridge for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash the decision of Judge Gabriel Hutton and two justices at Gloucester Crown Court on November 7, 1996 to increase the

plaintiff's sentence subsequent to giving him leave to abandon his appeal.

**SECTION 48 OF THE SUPREME COURT ACT 1981** provides: "(2) On the termination of the hearing of an appeal the court may confirm, reverse or vary any part of the decision appealed against, including a determination not to impose a separate penalty in respect of an offence."

Like any other practice, this

Lord Justice Morris agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert; Thirussi Sather Dechter.

## THE TIMES

### CROSSWORDS

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For the purposes of voting, a specimen voter is required to be present at the meeting.

For the election of the chairman and members of the executive committee, a simple majority of the votes cast is required.

For the election of the auditor, a simple majority of the votes cast is required.

For the election of the treasurer, a simple majority of the votes cast is required.

For the election of the secretary, a simple majority of the votes cast is required.

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## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: British Airways (q1), Oxford Molecular, Pearson, HSBC Holdings, Finalists: Filtronic, Contek, Midland Securities, Mid West, Interim and Investment Trust, Economic statistics: UK July provisional Mo, UK end-July official reserves, UK June housing starts and completions, US June construction, US Treasury auction of short-term t-bills.

## TOMORROW

Interims: Ashanti Goldfields, BAA (q1), British Petroleum (q2), Canada Prudential, Cheltenham Properties, Inspec Group, Mayflower Corporation, NatWest Group, TR Pacific Investment Trust, Willis Corroon Group (q2), Finalists: none scheduled, Economic statistics: UK July regional house price index, UK June industrial output, manufacturing production index, July CIPS services sector index, UK CBI four months to July regional trade survey, US Treasury auction of 10-year t-bills, US Treasury announces size of short-term t-bills, API weekly oil supply statistics.

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: Commercial Union (q2), GKN, Leslie Wise Group, Metal Bulletin, Prudential Corp, Standard Chartered, Transport Development Group, Woodhead Finalists: none scheduled, Economic statistics: BoE monetary policy committee meeting, UK SMIT new car registrations, US Treasury auction of \$12bn of five-year notes.

## THURSDAY

Interims: Barclays, KBC Advanced Technologies, Liberty International, Mersey Docks & Harbour, Rank Group, RBSA Group, Royal Bank, Royal Ulster Walker, Royal Dutch (q2), Shell Transport (q2), Zeneeca, Finalists: none scheduled, Economic statistics: UK June new construction orders, UK CBI July regional trades survey, BoE monetary policy committee meeting, US Treasury auction of \$10bn of 30-year bonds, US June consumer credit, US June reserves assets.

## FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled, Finalists: none scheduled, Economic statistics: no UK data scheduled for release.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.32	2.16
Austria Sch	22.28	20.70
Belgium Fr	65.63	60.87
Canada \$	2.33	2.25
Cyprus Cpe	0.532	0.538
Denmark Kr	12.15	11.26
Finland Mark	9.60	8.85
France Fr	10.69	9.81
Germany Dm	3.20	2.98
Greece Dr	459	484
Hong Kong \$	13.48	12.26
Iceland	127	107
Ireland P	1.18	1.08
Israel Shek	5.10	5.45
India Ru	51.98	52.00
Japan Yen	208.43	190.90
Malta	0.697	0.628
Netherlands Gld	3.608	3.313
New Zealand \$	2.70	2.48
Norway Kr	12.15	12.00
Portugal Esc	318.53	297.50
S Africa Rd	8.30	7.34
Spain Pta	257.29	248.50
Sweden Kr	13.57	12.67
Switzerland Fr	1.24	1.20
Turkey Lira	272.08	252.00
USA \$	1.742	1.599

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Profits shaken at embattled NatWest

**NATWEST GROUP:** All eyes will be on the beleaguered clearing bank tomorrow for all the wrong reasons. While rivals shine, NatWest's interim results are expected to be poor after a profit warning on June 16, with the market focusing on the problems of NatWest Markets (NWM) and its £77 million "black hole" in the interest-rate options business. Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman, and Derek Wanless, chief executive, have already taken some heat out of the announcement by appointing a new chief executive for NWM in Konrad "Chip" Kruger and announcing a reshaping and downsizing of the operation. Credit Lyonnais Laing, forecasts that NWM will contribute pre-tax profits of £135 million, excluding the charge, compared with £261 million in the same period last year. For the whole group, CLL forecasts half-year profits of £721 million (£302 million) and an interim dividend of 1p, up 15 per cent.

**HSBC HOLDINGS:** Solid rather than spectacular is the consensus on the banking giant's interim profits, due out today. The recent flurry of acquisition speculation has drawn attention to HSBC's capital strength and its potential to be an acquirer, but the banking team at Salomon Brothers sounds a note of caution. The Barnardus acquisition and general expansion into Latin America represent a big commitment of resources and management time, while the recent high prices for completed UK acquisitions will not suit HSBC's cautious ways. Midland Bank is expected to report strong mortgage growth. Salomon predicts half-year profits of £2.4 billion (£2.2 billion), earnings per share of 61.4p and an interim dividend of 17.5p.

**STANDARD CHARTERED:** A steady-as-she goes signal is expected from interim results on Wednesday, with currency factors playing a significant role in depressing revenues and bottom-line profits. Pre-tax profits are expected to be about £430 million (£448 million), with a payout of 5p. Hong Kong should kick in with an 11 per cent rise in trading profits, although other Asian markets have been mixed. Salomon Brothers has rated the share a "hold", but does not expect a share repurchase on the basis that the management is philosophically opposed to it.

**WOOLWICH:** Making its debut on Wednesday in the banks' interim reporting season, the former building society is expected to announce pre-tax profits of about £186 million and to pay an interim dividend, likely to be a third of that for the year, of 30.5p. In its former guise, the Woolwich was seen as one of the most cost-efficient societies. As a bank, its shares look fully valued, and prospects for underlying growth appear limited. "Excepting a bid, better value is available elsewhere in the sector," says Credit Lyonnais Laing.

**BARCLAYS BANK:** While all attention in investment banking has been on NatWest Markets, BZW, its Barclays counterpart, has been largely left to get on with its business, bar the occasional bout of speculation that it might be up for sale. Interim operating profits, due on Thursday, are expected to fall to £1.3 billion and pre-tax profits to be down by 7 per

cent to £1.2 billion, compared with last year, when the figures were released by "one-offs" such as releases of bad debt provisions.

**ZENECA:** Strong sales of its anti-asthma treatment, Accolate, and the anti-cancer portfolio should provide the backdrop to a reasonable set of first-half figures from Zeneeca on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are forecast to grow by 5 per cent from £611 million to £641 million, with earnings per share up from 43p to 44.5p. Turnover will be down a touch, reflecting disposals and currency

factors. The payout should rise by 15 per cent, from 12.4p to 14.3p.

**SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING:** Second-quarter results on Thursday are expected to make further progress in spite of lower oil prices and a stronger dollar. Net income is forecast to grow from £1.18 billion to £1.26 billion. The improvement is likely to accrue from the benefit of falling oil prices in its downstream and chemicals operations. The figures should also contain a surplus from the sale of coal interests in South Africa. The payout

will rise from 4.8p to 5p, but the Dutch guilder's weakness and the group's big cash balances may put pressure on it to be more generous to Royal Dutch shareholders.

**BRITISH PETROLEUM:** A better performance from downstream and chemical operations should provide the basis for a strong second quarter when BP reports tomorrow. A rise in net income from £87.7 million to £90 million is on the cards. A lower interest charge, reduced costs in upstream activities and increased volumes will also have helped the

meantime econo-

ists to show a slight fall to an annual rate of 6.2 per cent for July against 6.3 per cent in June.

**Industrial production**

figures for June, due tomorrow, are expected to show a rise of 1.2 per cent year on year. The latest Halifax house price survey will also be scrutinised for signs of overheating.

**The CBI distribution trades survey** is due out on Thursday and, again, will be analysed for signs of consumer strength.

**GEORGE SIVELL**

overall picture, and should help to counter a decline in the oil price. The payout will rise from 5p to 5.25p.

**PRUDENTIAL:** A solid performance is expected in half-year figures on Wednesday. New business has been buoyant and life profits worldwide are expected to be up by about 14 per cent. The mild winter should also ensure a healthy contribution from general insurance. A 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £421 million to £468 million, is forecast. The interim dividend should rise 11 per cent, from 5.8p to 6.4p.

**ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE:** Flat underwriting profits and adverse currency factors will result in a small drop in operating profits in half-year figures due on Thursday. Brokers expect £445 million, against £450 million last time. Even so, the group is capable of generous dividend growth in the next few years, with brokers predicting an increase of 10 per cent to 7.15p, this time.

**COMMERCIAL UNION:** A small improvement in half-year operating profits is expected results due on Wednesday. NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for £220 million, against £216 million last time. Improved life profits and low underwriting losses should counter the decline in investment income. The payout is likely to be up 7 per cent, at 12.25p.

**BRITISH AIRWAYS:** The strong pound is expected to have made a dent in first-quarter performance when the group reports today. Pre-tax profits are expected to fall £12 million, to £135 million, with earnings per share stuck at 10.5p. Traffic growth rose almost 9 per cent, with revenues up 3 per cent to £1.98 billion, from the first quarter last year. Analysts will probably have to downgrade full-year forecasts to reflect the strike by cabin staff.

**BAA GROUP:** First-quarter figures tomorrow should show a modest improvement, with brokers penciling in pre-tax profits of £133 million, up from £130 million for the corresponding period. Traffic grew by 7.8 per cent to 26.6 million people in the period, but the increase in traffic charges is likely to wipe £8 million from the final figure. Earnings per share should show the same rate of progress, rising from 9.5p to 9.7p.

**GKN:** Half-year profits on Wednesday will almost certainly bear the scars of a strong pound. At the pre-tax level, they will show a modest increase from £183.6 million to £185.9 million, with earnings per share up from 32.1p to 32.8p. About 57 per cent of sales are in foreign currencies and the effect of a strong pound will be significant when translating back. New aerospace orders should boost overall sales by 10 per cent.

**REED ELSEVIER:** Half-year figures on Thursday will show the harm that can be done by currency fluctuations. This, and costs of the switch to electronic distribution, will limit progress. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up 4 per cent, at £433 million, with earnings per share up just 2 per cent at 14.8p. The dividend is expected to rise 10 per cent, to 9.1p.

**MICHAEL CLARK**

Express hotels,  
Tom Cobleigh  
and all

By DOMINIC WALSH

**TOM COBLEIGH:** The pub chain bought by Rank Group in October, is in talks with a fledgling hotel company with a view to developing budget Holiday Inn Express hotels next to some of its pubs.

Its prospective partner is Premier Hotels, which is currently assembling a £100 million war chest to fund development of Holiday Inn Express units throughout the UK and on the Continent. Premier has a franchise agreement with Bass, owner of the Holiday Inn brand worldwide.

When Rank bought the 44-strong Tom Cobleigh chain for a hefty £95.6 million, there were raised eyebrows in the City, so any deal that improves the return on its investment should be well received. Although Rank will be providing the land, it is not thought to be putting any money into building the hotels.

Neither party would comment on the deal, but it is understood that it does not have either from other partnerships, indeed, Premier's first Holiday Inn Express — to open in Cardiff next week — adjoins an Allied Domecq Big Steal Pub.

Holiday Inn has been trying to get the Express concept off the ground for some years, but has had trouble finding franchisees willing to enter a market dominated by Gramada's Forte Travelodge and Whitbread's Travel Inn. Only three have opened so far, although Bass is planning to build some of its own.

Premier says it is close to signing funding deals worth almost £40 million.

## CHANGE ON WEEK

## US dollar

1.6367 (+0.0283)

## German mark

3.0385 (+0.0204)

## Exchange index

105.3 (-0.9)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

## FT 30 share

3029.2 (+23.6)

## FTSE 100

4899.3 (+47.8)

## New York Dow Jones

8194.04 (+80.60)

## Tokyo Nikkei Average

19804.38 (-585.16)

## Rates outlook sets the tone

**REMARKS** by Howard Davies, days after he retired as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, that interest rates will go up again, may set the tone neatly for this week.

Economists will be watching the Bank of England monetary policy committee meeting on Wednesday and Thursday to see how accurate are Mr Davies's, presumably informed, predictions.

What seems certain is that the members of the committee will resume their argument over how much of a monetary squeeze the strong pound is putting on the economy already, and how necessary

this makes a further increase, making a 1 percentage point rise in rates over four months. No one would be surprised, however, by a decision to hold off any rise for a month.

The result of their deliberations will be known on Thursday. The City is expecting a 0.25 per cent

increase, making a 1 percentage point rise in rates over four months. No one would be surprised, however, by a decision to hold off any rise for a month.

**GEORGE SIVELL**

## NEC's new £65m wing to create 2,000 jobs

By FRASER NELSON

THE National Exhibition Centre, the Birmingham convention venue, is spending £65 million on a new wing. It hopes that the expansion will inject £100 million a year to the West Midlands economy and create 2,000 jobs.

NEC Group, which runs the publicly owned centre, plans to use the new wing to bid for the 2003 International Textile Machinery Exhibition. It has joined forces with Enpac, the publishing and conference group, to raise the funds needed to complete the extension and become the world's seventh largest exhibition hall.

Enpac, the NEC's largest single customer, is to buy an

equity stake in the project, matching the value of the land already donated by local authorities. The outstanding money has been raised by issuing 30-year bonds through UBS Securities, the investment bank.

Barry Cleverdon, NEC's chief executive, said that bid for the extension, which has never come to the UK before, will firmly mark Birmingham on the global map of exhibition centres.

He said: "This will be for the most ambitious bid we have put together. The new wing will provide immense benefit for the local economy, for Britain's position as a

## Bank table headed by NatWest

THE troubled NatWest Group, whose interim results are published tomorrow, has a more than 25 per cent share of the UK banking market (Marionne Cyriac writes).

Barclays is just behind with almost 24 per cent, while Lloyds TSB trails at just under 16 per cent.

The figures published by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company, come after the bank revealed last week that its investment banking business, NatWest Markets, would be split into two and Konrad "Chip" Kruger would be its new chief executive.

Mr Kruger took the position vacated when Martin Owen resigned from NWM in June.

## Heron pays £121m for Hypo Bank portfolio

By OLIVER AUGUST

HERON International, the property firm led by Gerald Ronson, has bought a £121 million portfolio from Hypo Bank. It comprises 520,000 sq ft of UK office space with tenants ranging from Allied Dunbar to the Post Office.

Mr Ronson said: "It is a sign of our confidence in the UK property market in respect of quality properties in select locations, and we intend to retain this portfolio as a first-class investment. We continue to re-

view major opportunities where we can add value."

The deal is

It is that time of the month again. The monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Bank of England meets again this week to decide whether to pile on more interest rate agony. The strength of consumer spending, driven partly by building society windfalls, argues in favour. But does the peculiar nature of these windfalls suggest that the Bank should desist?

The windfall payouts are a once-and-for-all event. After the money has been spent, the level of consumer spending will fall back to its underlying trend. Accordingly, if the Bank succeeded in preventing the windfall effect from raising the immediate profile of spending at all, then once the surge had passed through, policy would be too tight and we could land up with substantial falls in consumer spending and quite possibly a recession overall. So this is an argument for the Bank simply to frown and bear it.

Would that life were so simple. The sharp rise in international oil prices in 1979 was a temporary shock. After a few years, real oil prices were back where they started from. But this once-and-for-all event left a legacy of painfully high inflation and interest rates which took more than a decade to pass through the system. Similarly, the surge of windfall spending could put upward pressure on the price level which could cause expectations of inflation to

## Should the Bank frown and bear it?



ROGER BOOTLE

pick up, thereby building in a higher rate of inflation. Accordingly, the Bank might need to stand against the effects of even a temporary surge in spending of the windfall variety.

How can these two conflicting arguments be reconciled? The Bank's aim should be to moderate the spending surge, but not to eliminate it altogether. If it were to succeed in doing that, it would almost certainly have done too much.

The Bank's task is greatly complicated by the fact that it cannot know how great the windfall effect is. There are good arguments why it should be small, with consumers saving the bulk of the payments, thereby spreading the increase in their spending possibilities over a long period. If that is what is happening but we nevertheless observe some very strong spending numbers over the next few months, then the surge in spending reflects non-windfall factors and may be sustainable. In that case the Bank's response should be tougher. For any given strength of spending over the next few months, the more of that is explicable by the windfall effect the better.

But there is a second sense in which windfall

spending may be different. It seems from anecdotal evidence that much of the money is being spent on imports, including late-booked holidays, which are now almost out of stock. Suppose that all of the windfall spending were on imports, should the Bank be unfazed?

Even if capacity limits in the UK meant that the extra demand was met from abroad, arguably UK producers would still feel the increase in demand and would react by taking

from a time when the economy cannot easily cope with it to a later period when it might be able to cope better. So spending on imports is better from the Bank's point of view than spending on domestic output. But saving rather than spending the windfalls would be better still.

Suppose that all of the extra demand flowed abroad, and with no domestic price impact. In other words, £35 billion of windfalls translated into a £35 billion trade deficit, which then returned to normal as soon as the spending stopped. Would it matter? Wouldn't we be back to exactly the same position as before the windfalls occurred?

The answer is quite definitely not. The windfalls give the illusion that wealth has just been created, but in reality none has. Accordingly, if we behaved as though we were richer and spent the money, we would be consuming wealth to the equivalent extent. Our collective balance sheet would have worsened. To put it at its cruelest, in effect we would have given foreigners' part-ownership of the Halifax in exchange for a year's supply of extra foreign holidays. That would be all very well if we had consciously chosen to do this. But on the contrary, it would be the equivalent of going on a binge to celebrate winning the lottery — only to find out subsequently that you have not.

## RJB plans for cut-price power

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ELECTRICITY prices could fall sharply under proposals being put to the power regulator by RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal producer.

RJB is urging Professor Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Electricity Regulation, to allow the coal industry to match the price of gas-generated power and is offering to cut coal prices by 11.5 per cent.

The company, with more

than 40 deep mines and open-cast sites in England producing 35 million tonnes of coal a year, says electricity consumers have had a "poor deal" from the electricity market since privatisation, partly because of the displacement of a competitive power market next year. RJB says: "Electricity consumers have not benefited from reducing coal prices

and have been forced to pay higher than necessary bills."

The company says that between 1989 and 1995, the last year for which official figures are available, coal prices to electricity generators fell 40 per cent in real terms while electricity prices to customers fell only 12 per cent.

RJB puts forward four main proposals to help to create price cuts in electricity:

## Hawley takes charge at fuel recycling company

BY CHRIS AYRES



ROBERT HAWLEY, the former chief executive of British Energy, who left the nuclear power company when he was denied the chairmanship, has today been appointed non-executive chairman of ERAtech, the recycled fuel company.

ERAtech takes harmful waste chemicals from companies such as ICI, DuPont and Zeneca and turns them into fuel. It plans to float next month with a market capitalisation of about £15 million.

The fuel produced by ERAtech can be used only at extremely high temperatures, such as in the production of cement. In the UK, ERAtech's subsidiary, Organic Technologies, supplies fuel to Rugby, Blue Circle and Redland.

Dr Hawley, who says destroying waste products by inciner-

ation or landfill is prone to harmful leakage and environmental contamination. He adds: "The ERAtech process turns this waste into a useful fuel that not only reduces harmful emissions, but also keeps the cement industry profitable in an increasingly competitive global market."

Although Dr Hawley's move is partly inspired by environmental concern, the recycled fuel industry is also extremely profitable, and is likely to expand as legislation on landfills and incineration gets tougher.

Jeffrey Green, ERAtech's finance director, says: "Our market grows in direct response to regulation. Also, there is plenty of waste being produced by chemical companies and the manufacture of cement is always very energy-intensive."

## Study forecasts huge shift in City jobs

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S financial services are likely to see a huge shift in their workforces, with more than a quarter of jobs changing as the old go and new are created.

According to a new study of future job patterns in the City, 150,000 jobs will go in the financial services sector by the end of the decade — but 113,000 new jobs will

be created. However, the report suggests there will be little overlap for City and other financial services workers between jobs being cut and those created.

The study, for Focus, the central London Training and Enterprise Council, says that Britain's financial institutions are adopting a new form of flexibility as shareholder and market pressures force industry-style "lean pro-

duction" methods on large employers.

John Bond, chief executive of HSBC, said: "As service industries experience the major changes in productivity and quality that we have already witnessed in manufacturing, the challenge will be two-fold" — for companies, organising themselves around their customers and for employees equipping themselves with the skills necessary to do so."

## ARTS

A sneak preview of the Hayward Gallery's autumn show, 'Objects of Desire'.

## ATHLETICS

Denise Lewis goes for gold in the heptathlon at the World Athletics Championships.

## IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

### CRICKET

Lord MacLaurin publishes his blueprint for the future of English cricket.

### ITF

Play Interactive Team Football with the chance to win £50,000.







Should the Bank frown and bear it?

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

# BUSINESS

WEEK AHEAD 40

No shelter in results at NatWest



MONDAY AUGUST 4 1997

## Train groups signal new Oxford-Cambridge rail service

By FRASER NELSON

GO-AHEAD, the transport group, is planning a train service linking Oxford and Cambridge on a network that would be the first long-distance railway built in Britain for 95 years. It is set to be joined by rivals National Express and Prism Rail in carving up a proposed £180 million franchise which will allow rail travel between the two cities avoiding London.

Go-Ahead, which already runs the London to Oxford line, is in talks with a

Railtrack-backed consortium of local authorities which estimate that the new service will take 2.12 million travellers of the road each year. Although the project has for decades been little more than a train-spotters pipe-dream, its chances of becoming reality have been boosted by Steer Davies Gleave, a transport consultancy, which has identified two routes.

The first is a £100 million network that would attract 3,550 passengers a day and bring in £13.7 million a year in revenue, and the second a £180 million service

attracting 5,800 passengers a day and yielding £21.1 million a year. Even the slower route would deliver an Oxford to Cambridge service within two hours, shaving 40 minutes off the fastest coach route between the two cities.

Roger McDonald, managing director of Thames Trains, whose largest shareholder is Go-Ahead, said: "We have been looking at this project for some time now, and are fairly confident that we could run a full service if it were profitable to do so. In general, we are finding that anything

competing with the M25 does good business, so we are taking this very seriously."

National Express may invest via its North London Railways network, but is only looking at extending its franchise to take in a Bedford to Oxford route. Prism Rail, which runs the London to Cambridge express, has confirmed it is interested in extending its West Anglia and Great Northern service round the Bedford loop.

Prism said: "We are quite excited by the prospect of a new route and if there was a situation where we would be asked to make a bid, we would be delighted." Railtrack said it is willing to pay about half of the costs of a new link — of which half would be recoverable through charges to rail operators. The rest is expected to come from European grants.

Prism, the rail franchising office which is this year giving out almost £2 billion in subsidy to rail operators, said it has not been approached for funds. However, it is expected that National Express, Go-Ahead and Prism would use promises of new services as bargaining chips to win

extensions on their franchises — which would all be up for renewal in 2003 when the first part of the Oxford-Cambridge link would probably open.

The new network would be constructed by updating the many lines in the area that can carry only freight trains and have 40 miles per hour speed restrictions. After restoring other "mothballed" routes, only ten miles of new track would have to be built. A final decision from the 25 local authorities that have to approve the new network is expected next month.

## Virgin bank to take on the clearers

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Group is preparing an audacious assault on the high street banks by setting up its own 24-hour telephone banking operation.

The Virgin bank will target well-paid professionals in their thirties and forties who are "disillusioned with their own bank". It will be launched early next year and pilot schemes could be in place this year.

The move will bring Virgin into direct competition with the likes of HSBC Holding's First Direct, but the real target will be dissatisfied customers of the major clearing banks: NatWest, Barclays, Midland and Lloyds TSB.

With the support of its backer, Australian Mutual Provident (AMP), Virgin plans to take on the traditional providers of current and deposit accounts. "This is a major new venture for us in the financial services market," said Tony Wood, Virgin's marketing director. "First Direct has carved its own niche so we will be after the customers of the big clearing banks."

The move comes after Virgin successfully challenged the might of the unit trust industry by launching its own index-tracking personal equity plan. Virgin Direct, the group's financial

Sainsbury's Bank has won over £600 million in deposits and 350,000 customers in the six months since it launched (Caroline Mervell writes).

The supermarket said the high number of customers put it ahead of its business target. The bank is expected to cost about £30 million to set up.

The rate on the bank's instant access account is one of the highest available. All balances, no matter how small, attract an interest rate of 6.15 per cent. This rate is nearly double that offered by many high street banks on instant access.

services arm, also ruffled the pensions industry by launching simple, low-cost pensions products by telephone.

Virgin's rivals said the strategy of targeting young professionals was further evidence of Virgin's strategy of "cherry-picking", an allegation directed at the group's life insurance products.

Virgin Direct now has £1 billion under management on behalf of 200,000 investors in its index-tracking unit trust. Since it was launched two and a half years ago it now has more than 50 per cent of the market. This is nearly double that offered by many high street banks on instant access.

However, the group is not

thought to be contemplating the purchase of a mutual building society. It is believed to have considered — and then dismissed — buying Birmingham Midshires and the Nationwide, which last month defeated an attempt by outsiders to seize control of its board. One factor is thought to be the high expense of a branch network.

Nevertheless, a further foray into life assurance could be on the cards. AMP has increased its investment in Virgin from £55 million to £400 million but still has a substantial war chest, which it could use to buy a larger chunk of the UK savings and pensions market.

AMP had been preparing a bid for Norwich Union when the life mutual floated on the stock market in June, but was discouraged at the last minute by the insurer's high price tag after a run on financial services stocks in the preceding months. Bid speculation had also pushed up the potential price of another of AMP's targets, the mutual insurer NPI.

Analysts do not expect predators to bid for mutual life insurers while the FTSE 100 is still rising and prices are high. They predict that a market correction will force mutuals into flotation or partnerships because they will be unable to maintain current bonus rates.

Among those regarded as targets are Friends Provident, Scottish Widows, NPI and Equitable Life.



Sophia Smith with a Sanatogen-fortified fruit juice drink being aimed at Britain's breakfast tables by the Roche pharmaceuticals company

### Sanatogen up for breakfast

THE maker of Sanatogen multivitamins is to mount an assault on the breakfast market with its own fruit juice.

Roche, the pharmaceuticals company, is billing its Start-Up — a drink with almost twice as many vitamins as milk — as the drug industry's equivalent of chocolate fritters entering the ice cream market.

Start-Up is aimed at the 86 per cent of people not taking vitamins. Sophia Smith, marketing manager, said it could add £10 million to Sanatogen's £40 million annual sales.

## Dividends add £93 to water bills

By JASON NISSE

CUSTOMERS of North West Water contributed £93 each last year to dividends paid by the group to its parent company, United Utilities.

The figure, which accounts for 42 per cent of the average water bill, is included in returns made by North West to Ian Byatt, the Ofwat water regulator. They are revealed in a report by Waterwatch, the lobby group, as part of a submission to Margaret Beckett,

President of the Board of Trade, calling for tougher regulation of water companies.

The report will also will fuel the "fat cat" debate in United, whose chairman, Sir Desmond Fisher, is under pressure after the sacking of the chief executive, Brian Staples.

Waterwatch says that North

West, in spite of making

profits of £135 million in the

last financial year, paid United a dividend of £354 million,

and had to take on extra borrowing to cover the payout.

It was the largest dividend paid by any water company.

The next highest was by Severn Trent, whose payout equalled £60 a customer, and a similar level of contribution came from Wessex. Customers contributed least with Southern, passing on just £23.12 to its shareholders.

United justified its payout by saying that North West also

gave more back to customers in rebates than any other water company.

"This just shows how efficient we are, rewarding customers and shareholders," a spokesman said.

Pete Bowler, of Waterwatch, said: "Customers are paying too much for the privilege of being captive customers of the big water companies. The regulatory system operated by Ofwat has failed both customers and the environment."

### Hampel to take softer stance on governance

THE Hampel committee, which has spent 18 months reviewing the regulation of corporate governance in the UK, is to recommend a softening of the stance proposed in the previous Cadbury and Greenbury reports.

The preliminary report of the committee, led by Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, published tomorrow, reviewed the results of the previous reports by Sir Adrian Cadbury and Sir Richard Greenbury. It is expected to suggest that instead of hard and fast rules about how a company should be run, firms should merely have to disclose their reasons for particular corporate structures.

The Treasury described reports that Sir Terry Burns, its Permanent Secretary, might be hired away from the job he has held for the past 17 years to take charge of the London Business School as "speculative". Sir Terry was at LBC before joining the Treasury.

And it will reject suggestions that companies should run themselves in the interests of anyone other than their shareholders. Lobby groups have argued that customers, employees or environmental issues should have as much influence as delivering a good return for shareholders.

The report is expected to anger corporate governance activists such as Pirc, the pensions advisory body, and leading fund managers such as Hermes and Standard Life. They have pressed for a tighter regime on corporate pay, management structures and the general behaviour of leading companies.

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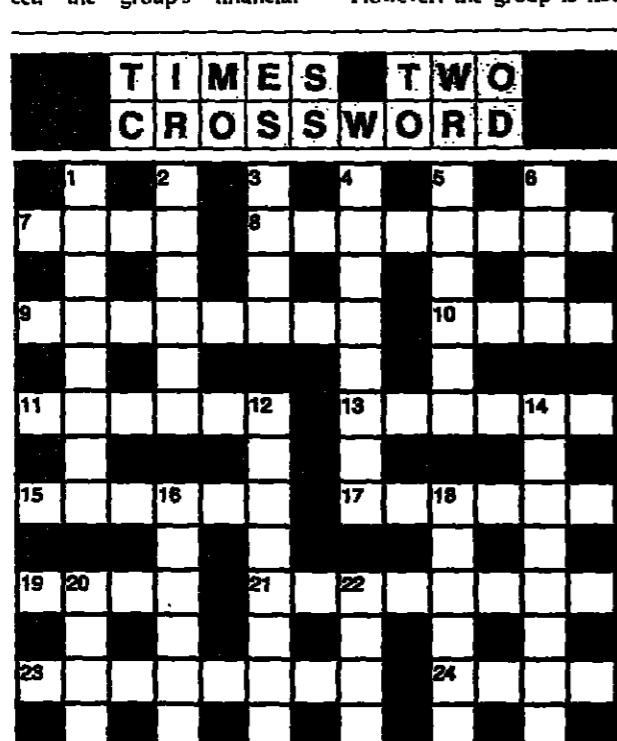
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SYRA



No 1163

**ACROSS**

- To fillet (meat) (4)
- 21 Tzarina-influencing monk (8)
- Sugar/egg-white bake (8)
- Tax: ring (4)
- Sick feeling (6)
- A plant: frugality (6)
- Liquid container: ship (6)
- Bribe (one) to do wrong (6)
- Tap (impatient fingers) (4)
- One from Russian Far East (8)
- Poisonous (8)
- Anti-aircraft fire: abuse (4)

**DOWN**

- To calm: not extreme (8)
- Special, brilliant nature (6)
- Steep rock (4)
- Fire-retardant (8)
- Customer: one poling boat (6)
- Medicine tablet (4)
- Oblique reference (8)
- Start (shooting questions) (4)
- Delilah sheared him (6)
- Deprived (oil) (6)
- A dance: spool (4)
- Make music in street (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1162**

ACROSS: 1 Vis-à-vis, 5 Power, 8 Grill, 9 Admirer, 10 Tunnel vision, 12 Throng, 14 Smoker, 17 Battering ram, 21 Whippet, 22 Monk, 23 Poser, 24 Handler.

DOWN: 1 Vegetate, 2 Seion, 3 Vilain, 4 Starve, 5 Pumps, 6 Warlock, 7 Rare, 11 Promoter, 12 Readies, 15 Maranatha, 16 Crutch, 18 Taper, 19 Promote, 20 Swap.

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